

Investi GATORS



Off the Hook



New York Times-Bestselling Author

John Patrick Green

Investi GATORS



Off the Hook

:01
First Second

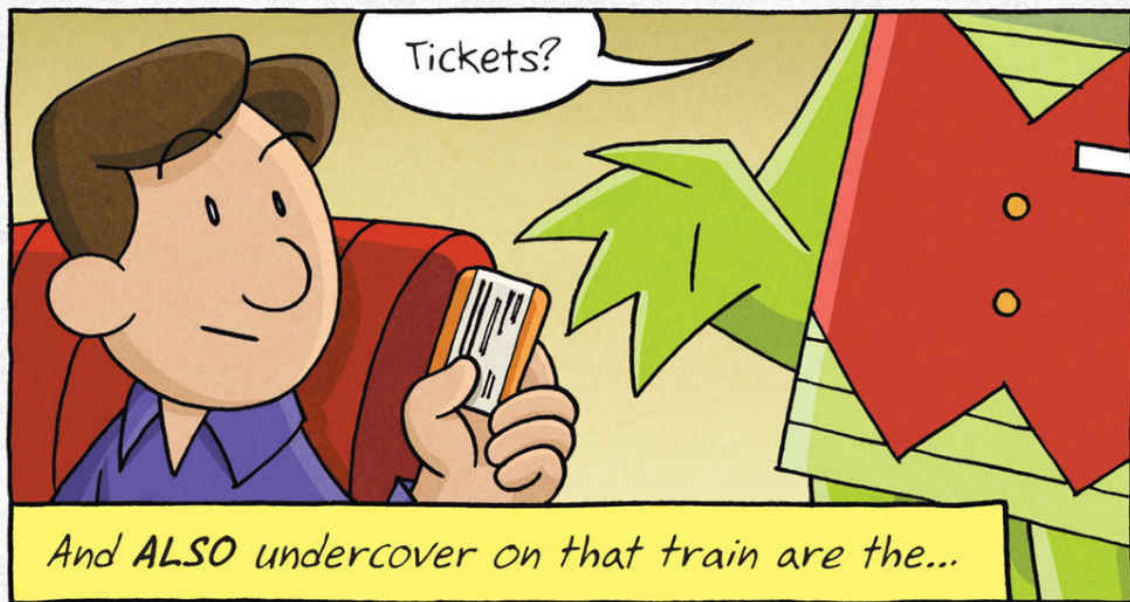


Chapter 1

Under cover of night...



...a train speeds along a mountain pass!



INVESTIGATORS!



MANGO! Stop narrating!
You're gonna blow my cover!



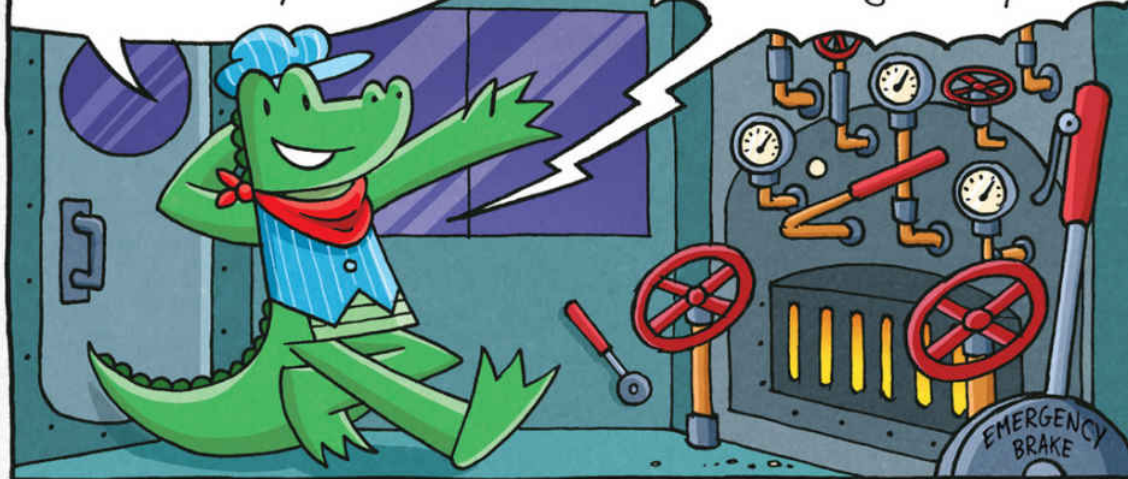
Sorry, Brash...



You know how much I
like trains. I just got
carried away!



Remember, your cover
is to keep the train
running safely...



...but we're undercover because **someone** on this train carries a case with a **stolen** list of S.U.I.T.* agents' names. So keep your eyes peeled for any clues.



Clues to a S.U.I.T. case, right. Like I'm just gonna find...



...a trail of...bread crumbs?



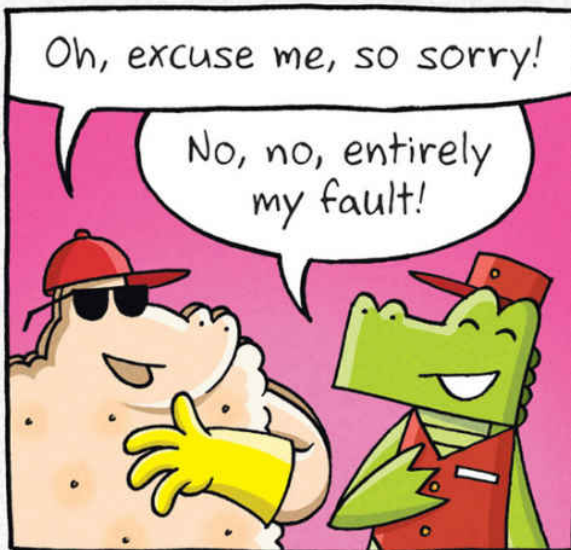
And until then, maintain radio silence!

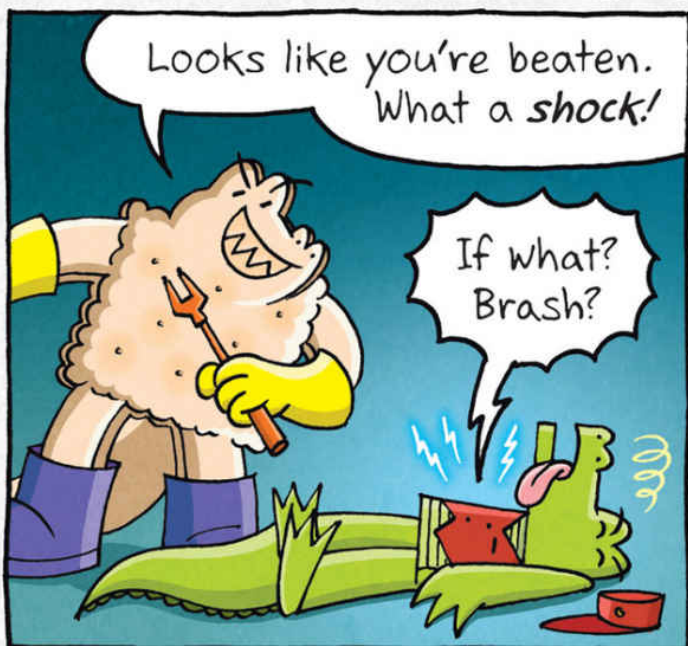
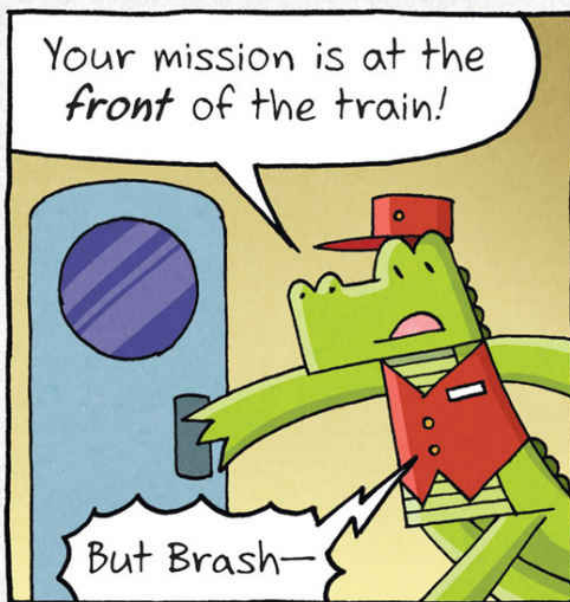


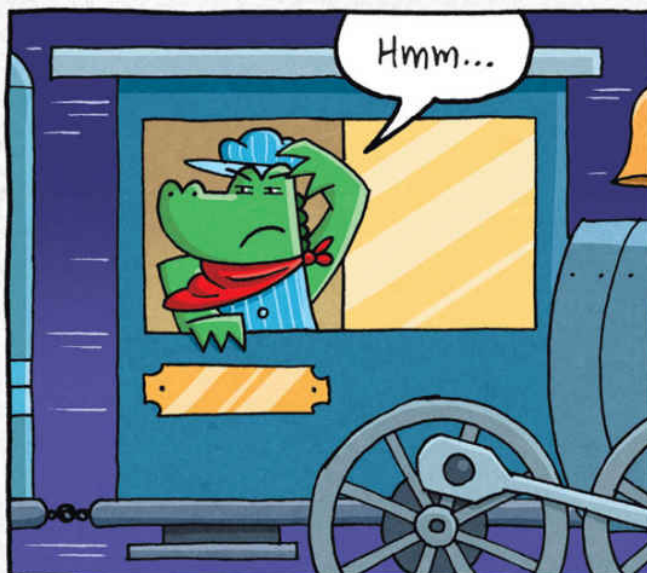
OOF!

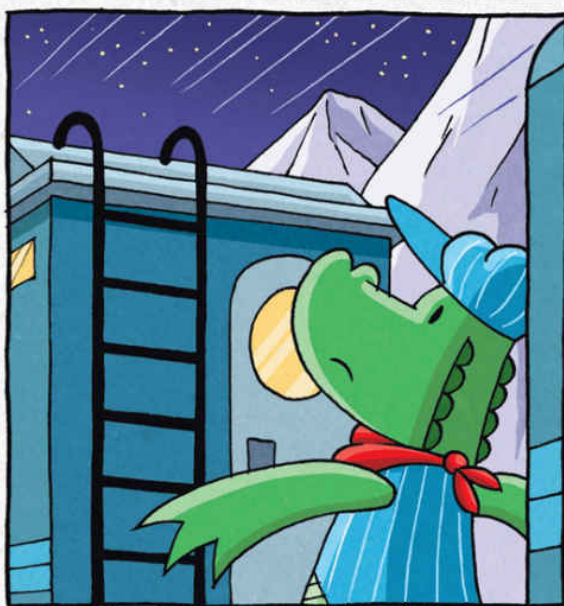
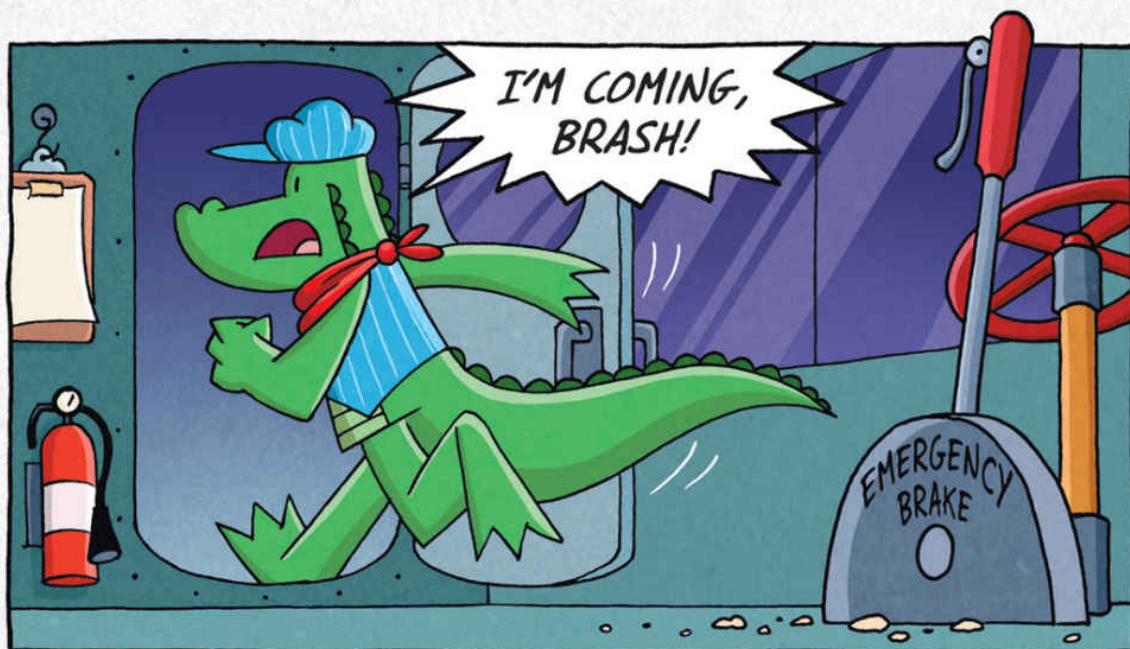


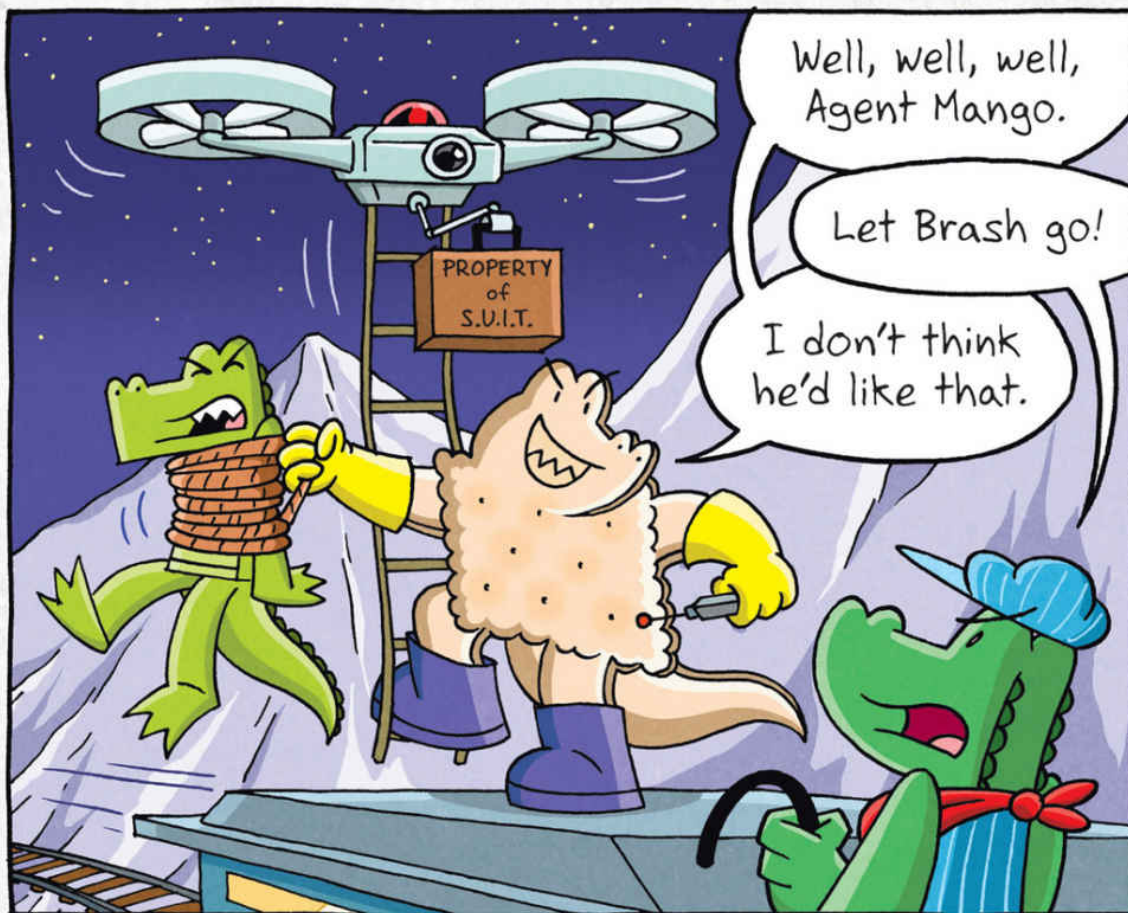
*Special Undercover Investigation Teams

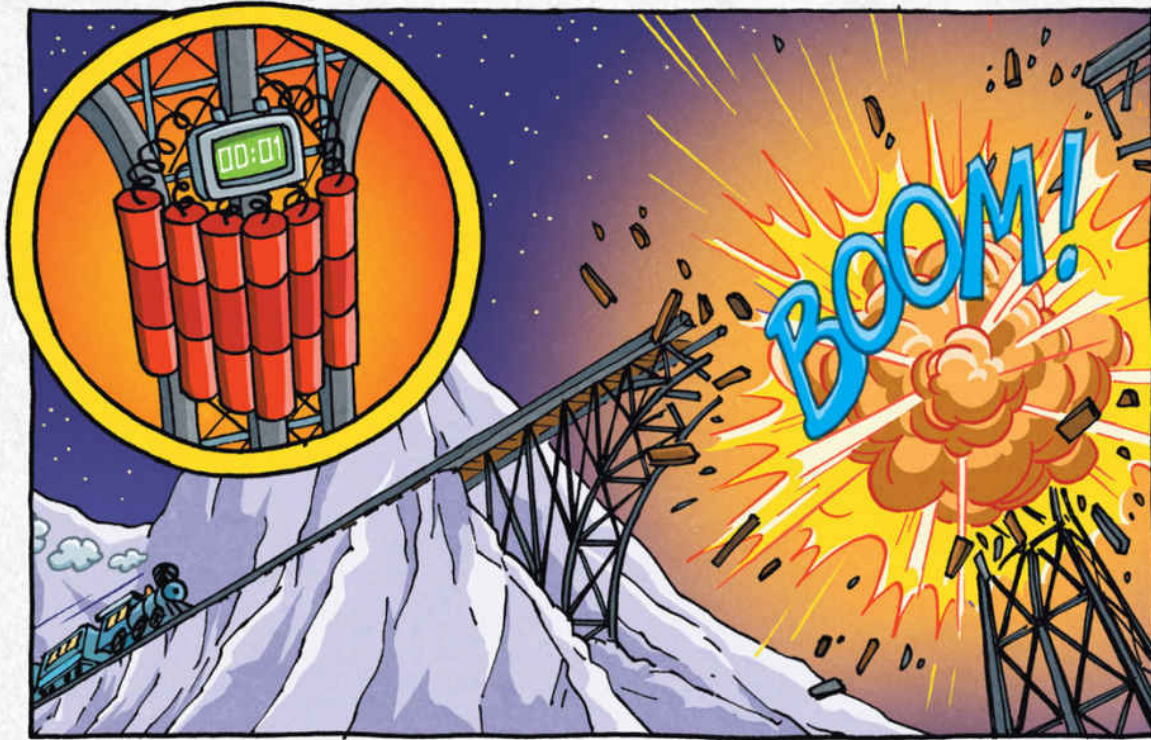






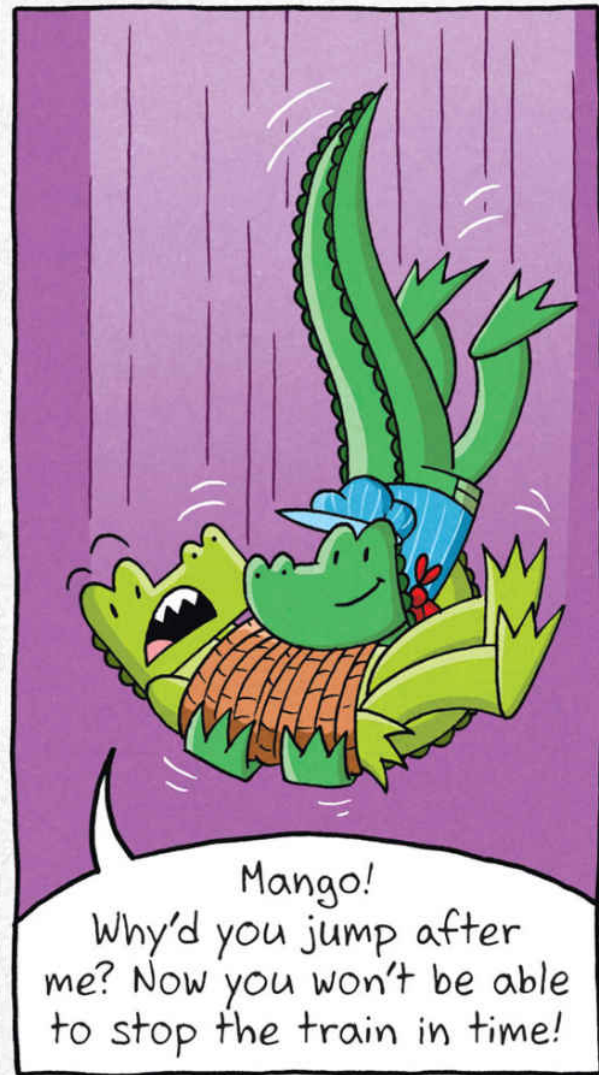
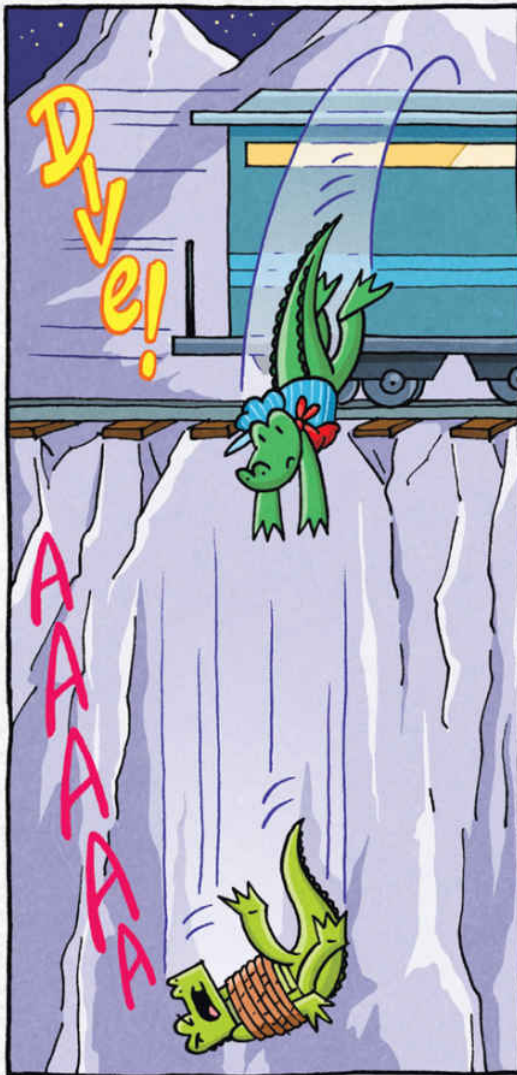
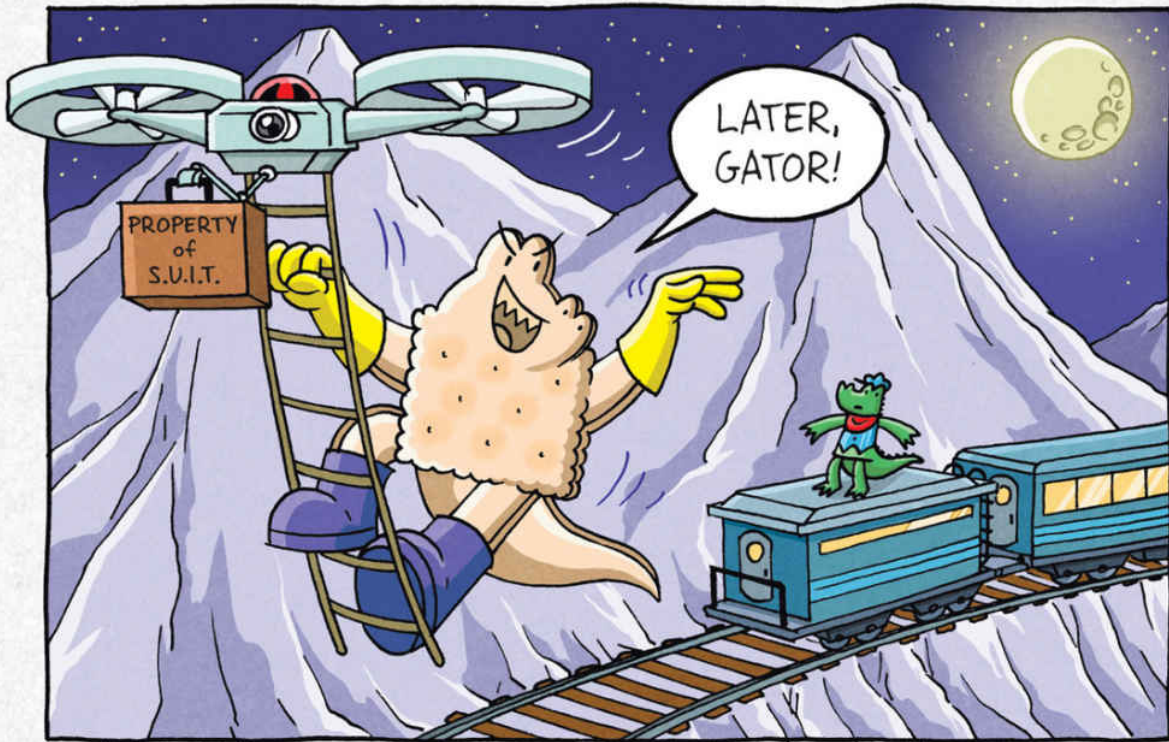




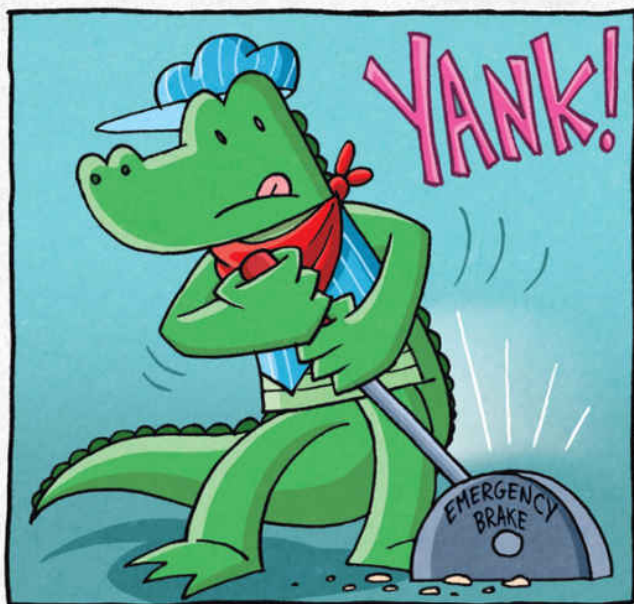


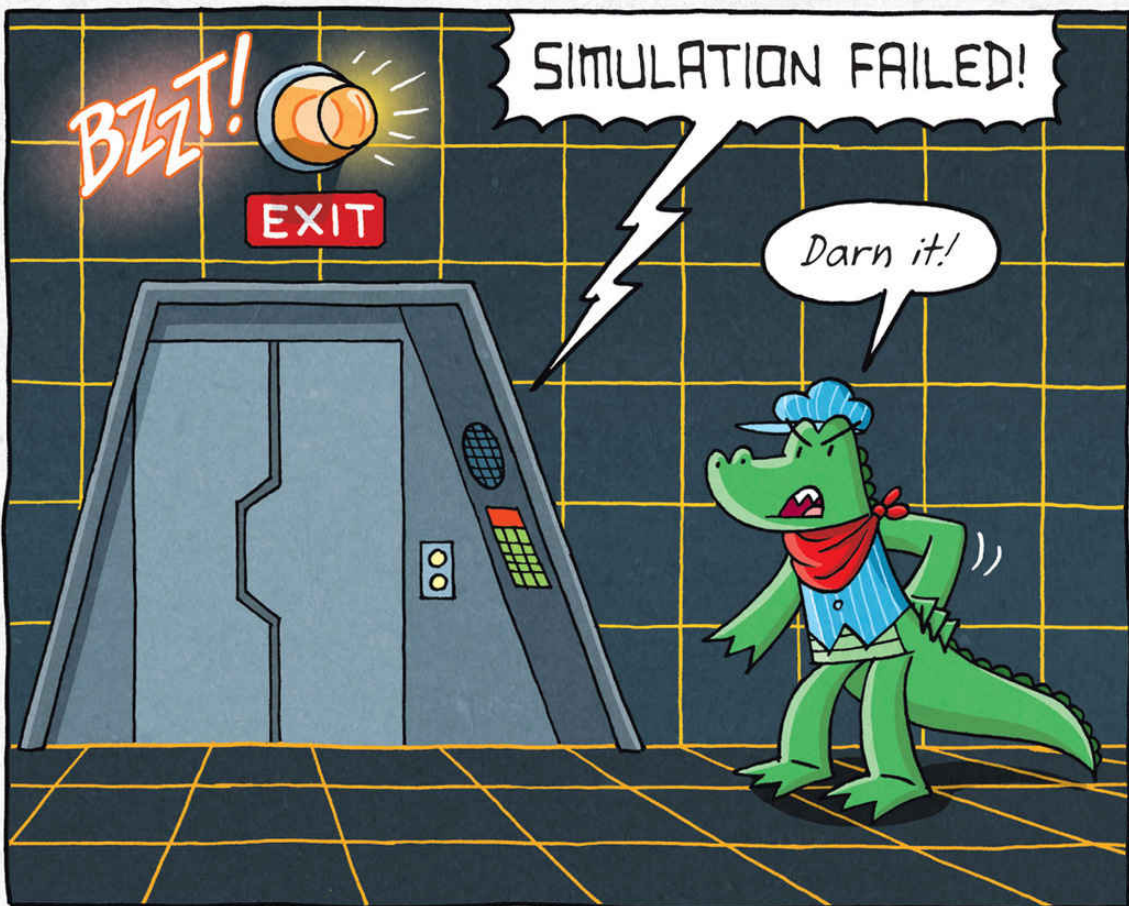
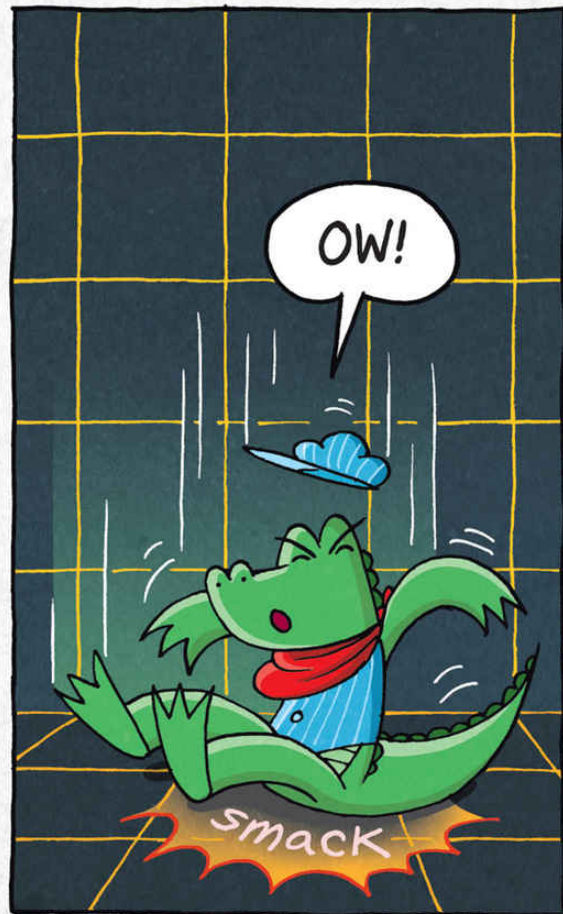
There's not enough time to do both,
so choo-choo-choose wisely!











Chapter 2

Deep inside S.U.I.T. Headquarters...



Mango, you've run that training simulation a dozen times and you *still* haven't gotten it right.

It's not fair, Brash!
It's a **no-win scenario!**



Even if I let Crackerdile kill you and I get to the front of the train *before* he bombs the bridge, the brakes are out, and we all go over the cliff anyway.



It always ends the same: Everyone dies and Crackerdile gets away!



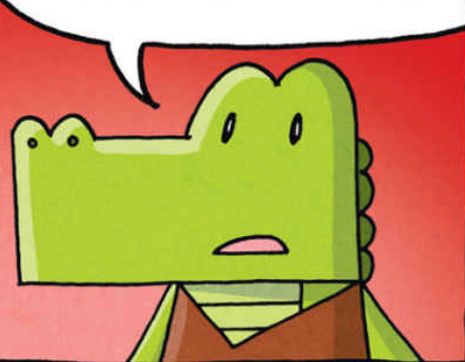
Have you tried...not saving me *OR* stopping the train, but *just* capturing Crackerdile?



But...you're my partner! You'd die—and so would all the passengers!



True. But you've got to think about the **GREATER GOOD.**



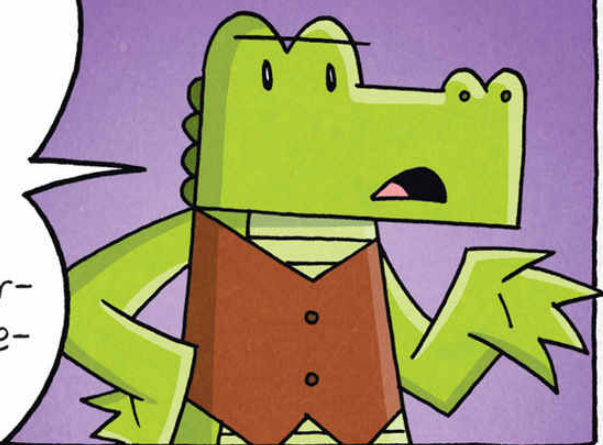
Crackerdile is a threat to thousands, maybe **MILLIONS** of people—maybe even the **WHOLE WORLD!** No matter what happens to me or the people on that train, if he gets away, the mission is a *failure!*



What do you mean he's a threat to thousands? Last time we saw him he was a **pile of mush** that probably got washed out to sea. I don't even know why I'm training to stop him.

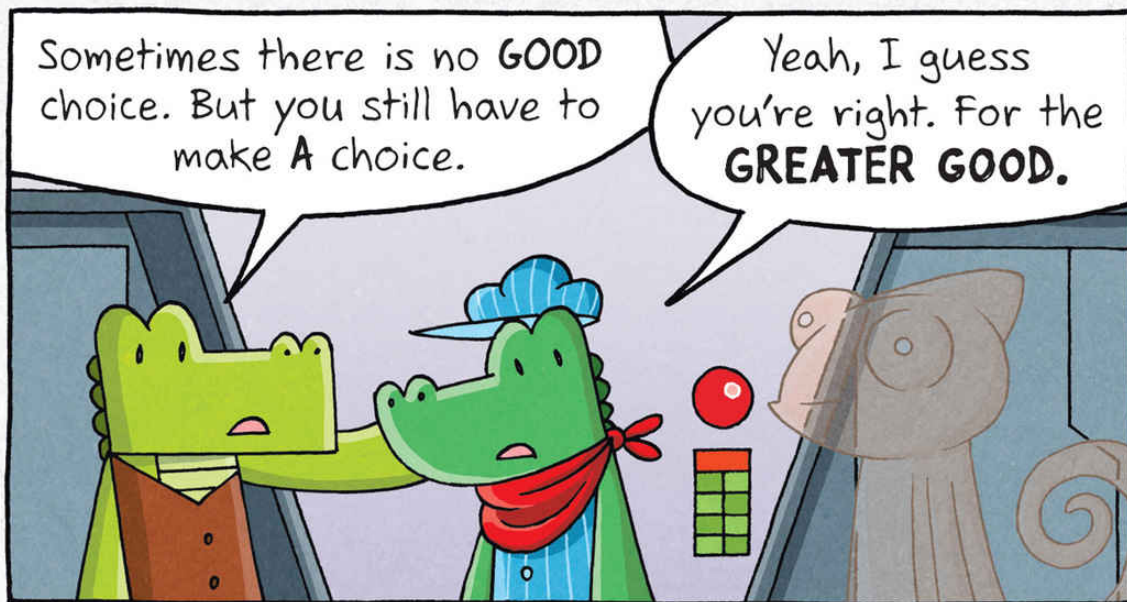


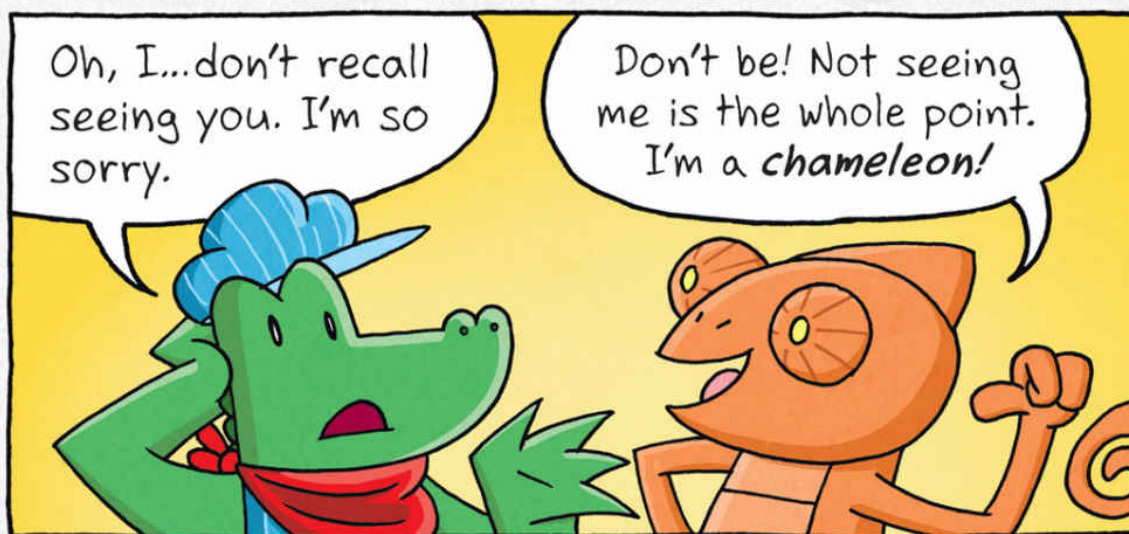
You're right. Crackerdile **ISN'T** a threat anymore. But if you can't beat **him**, what if there's a villain even **MORE** dangerous than a former-agent-turned-radioactive-saltine-cracker?

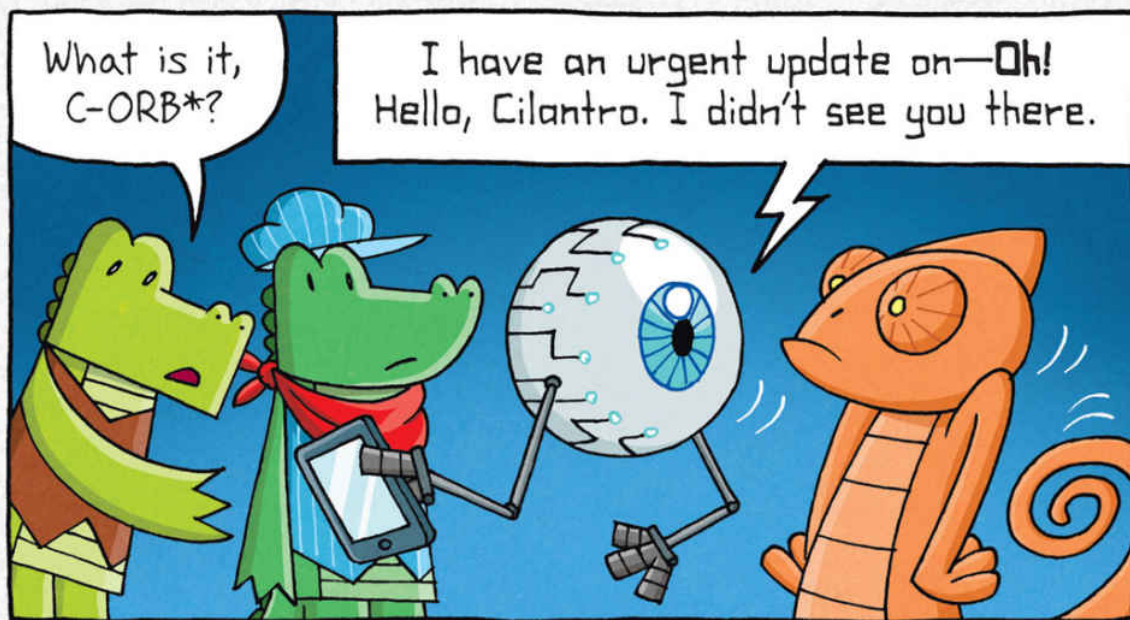
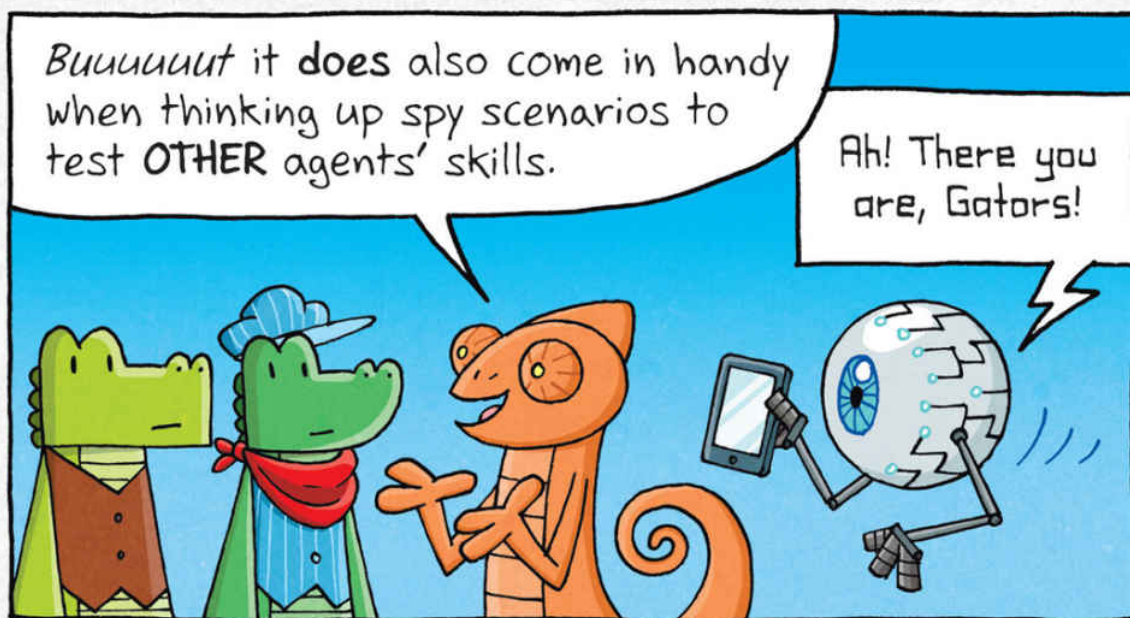


Plus, there's more to learn from this simulation than just how to stop Crackerdile. Like how to make tough decisions in the heat of the moment.



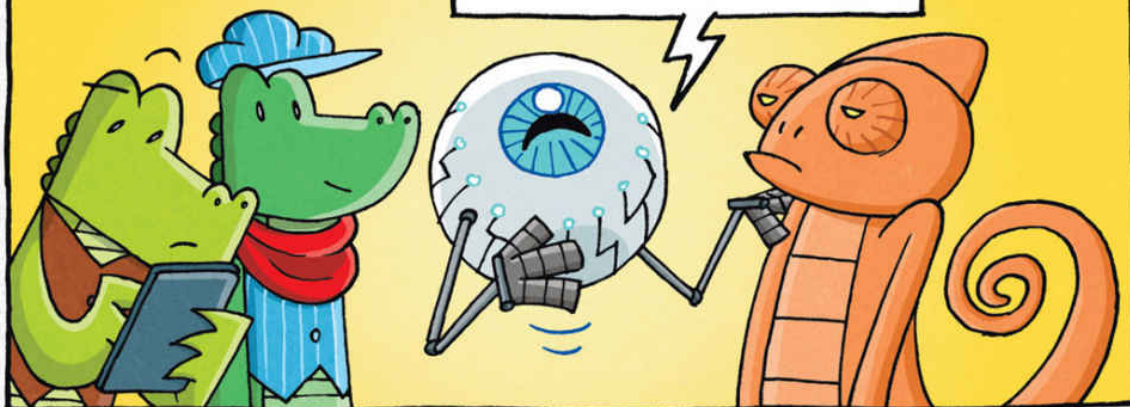




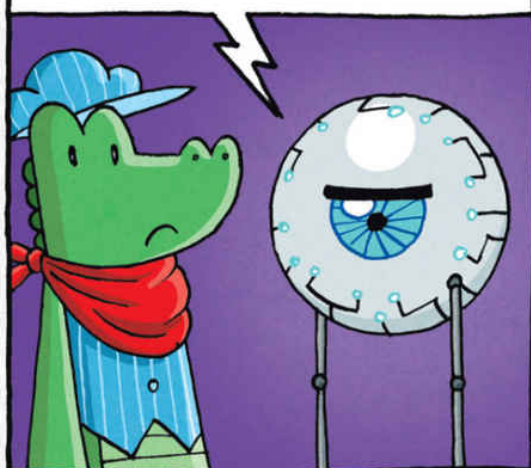


*Computerized Ocular Remote Butler

HA HA! I'm kidding. I'm a giant unblinking eyeball.
I see *everything*!



EVERYTHING.



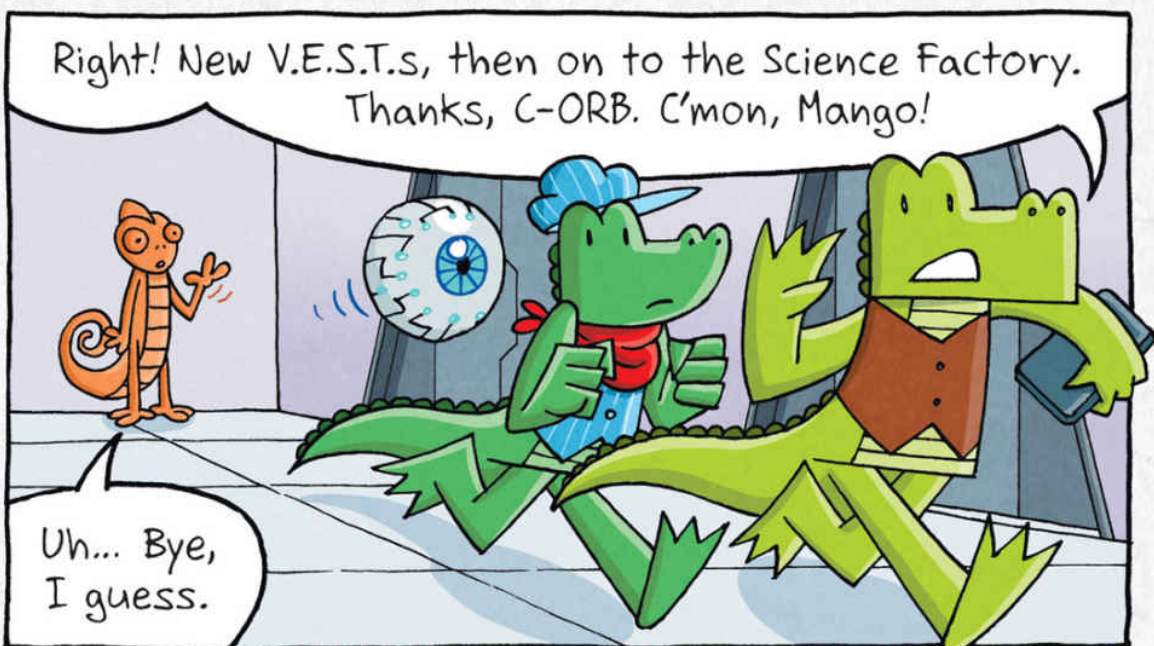
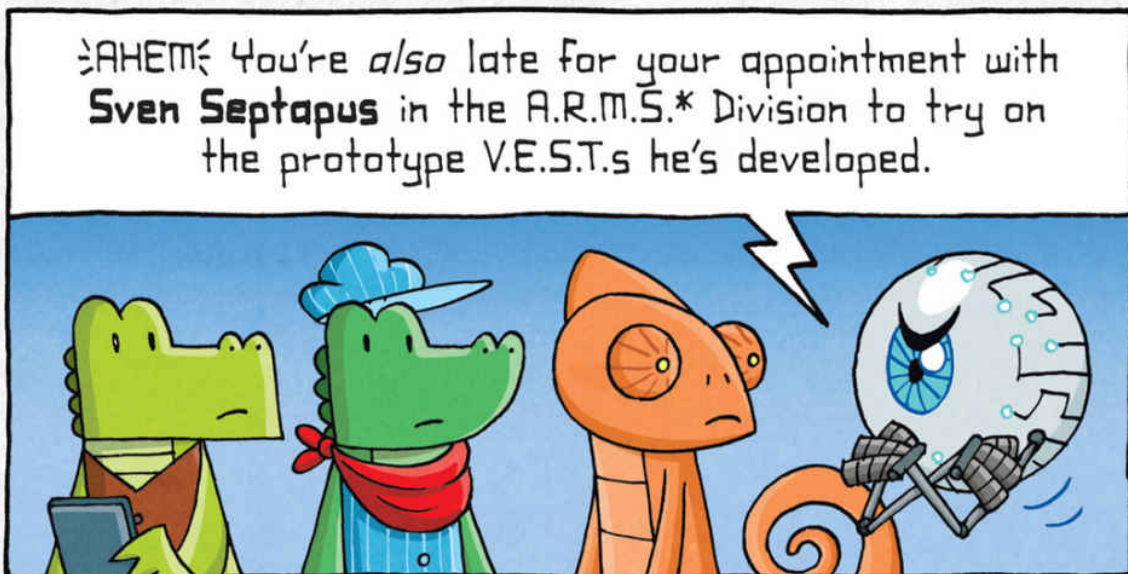
Mango, this says we need
to head to the Science
Factory, ASAP! It's about
the **Bill Plungerman** case!



You mean the case of the missing plumber
whose arm was combined with a snake,
giving him grappling hook powers?



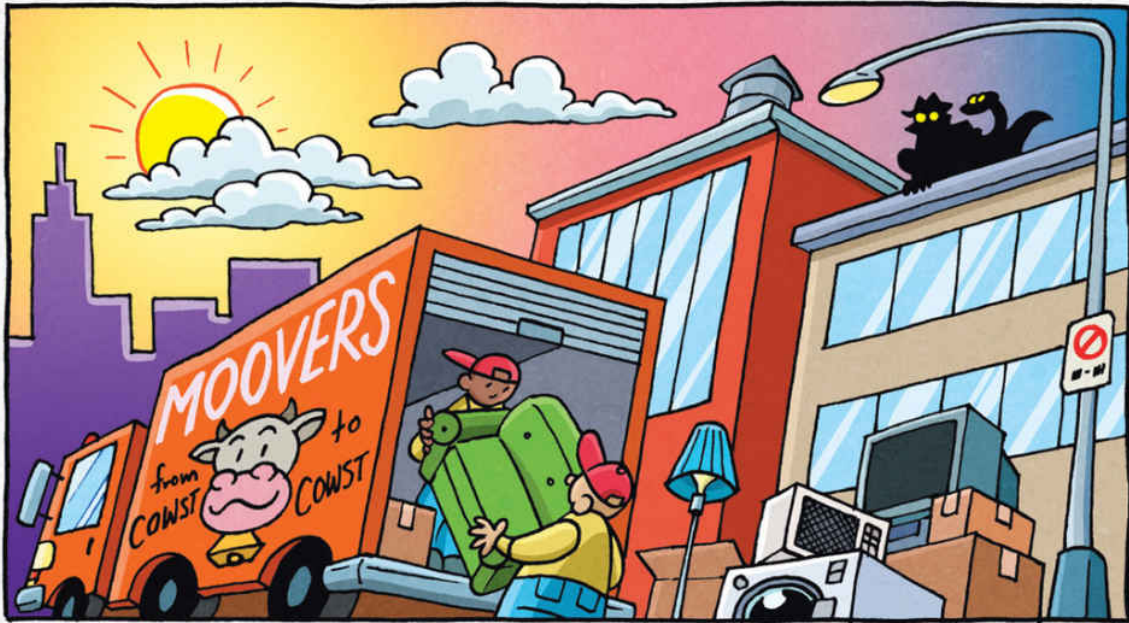
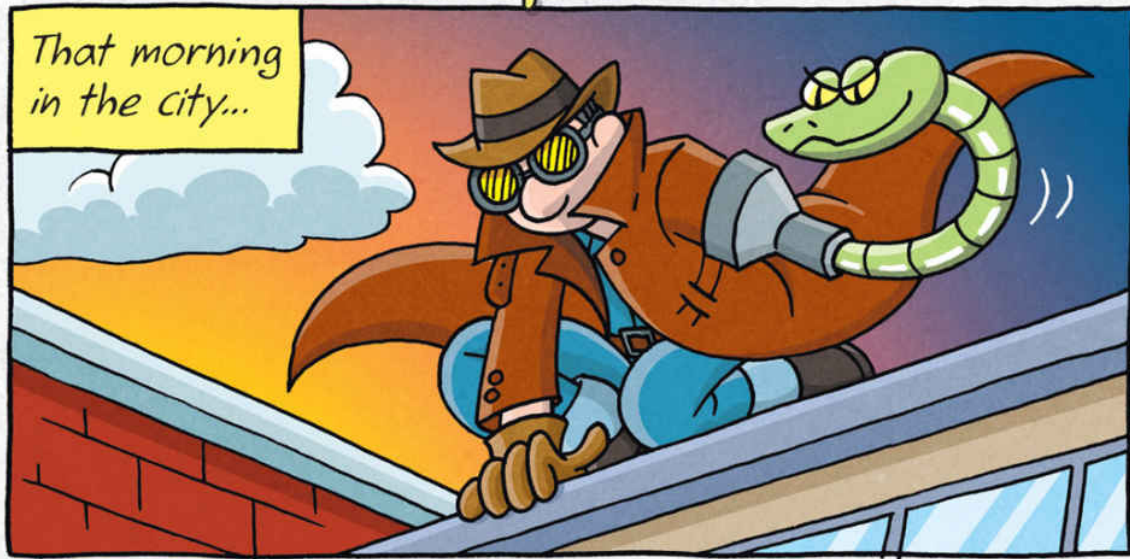
We've been trying
everything to find him.

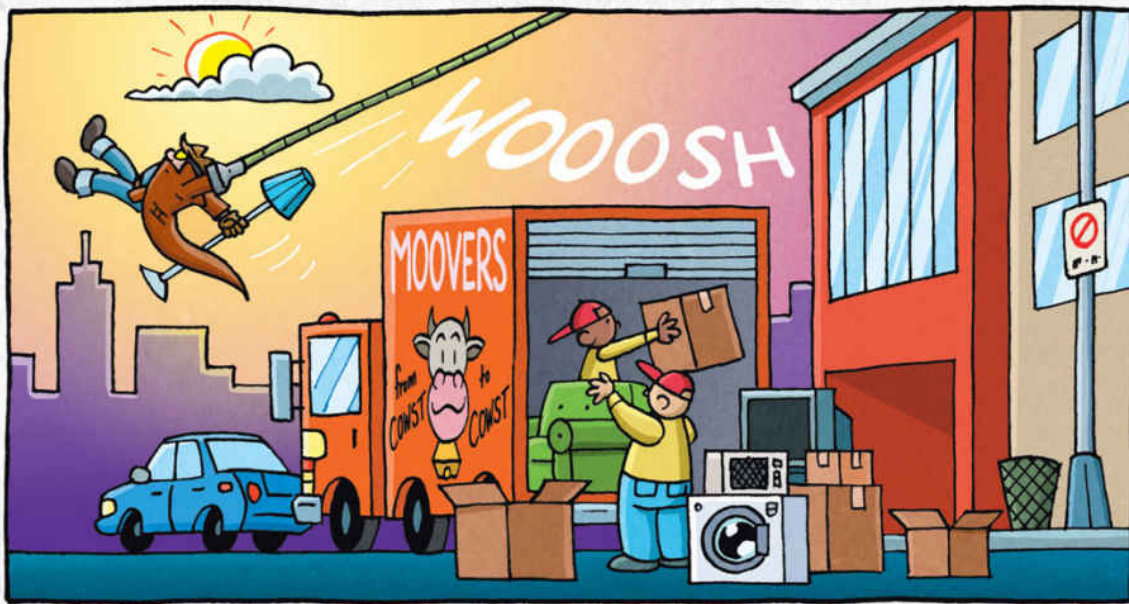


*Apparel Research and Manufacturing...Service? Section? Something?



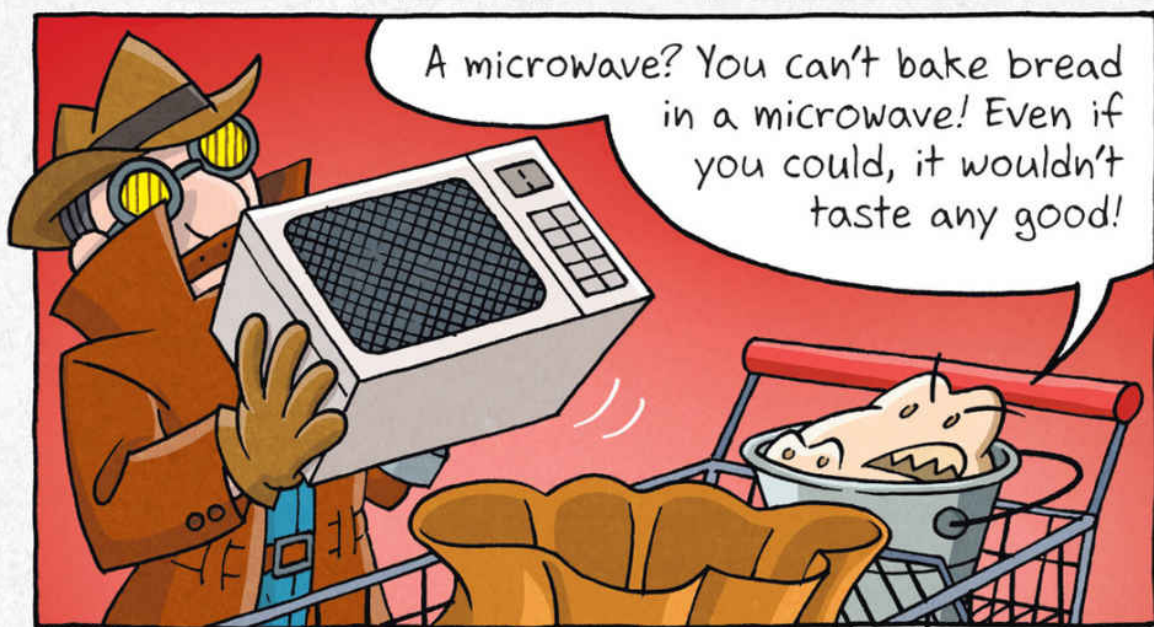
Chapter 3











And who knows what kind of effect microwaves would have on the **radioactive waste** that courses through my veins...if I even have veins...

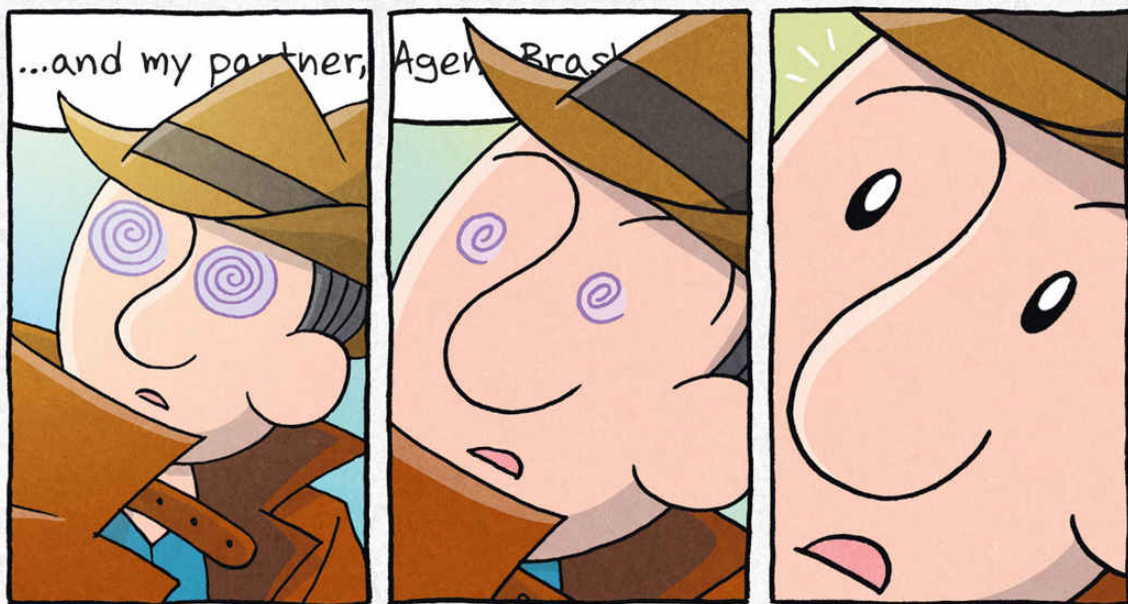
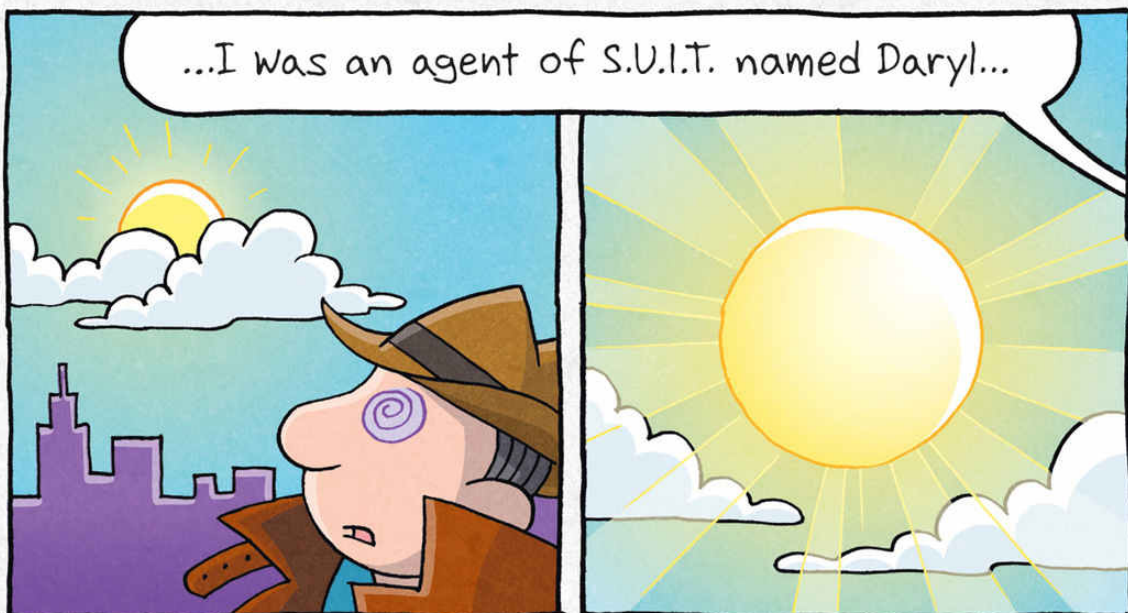
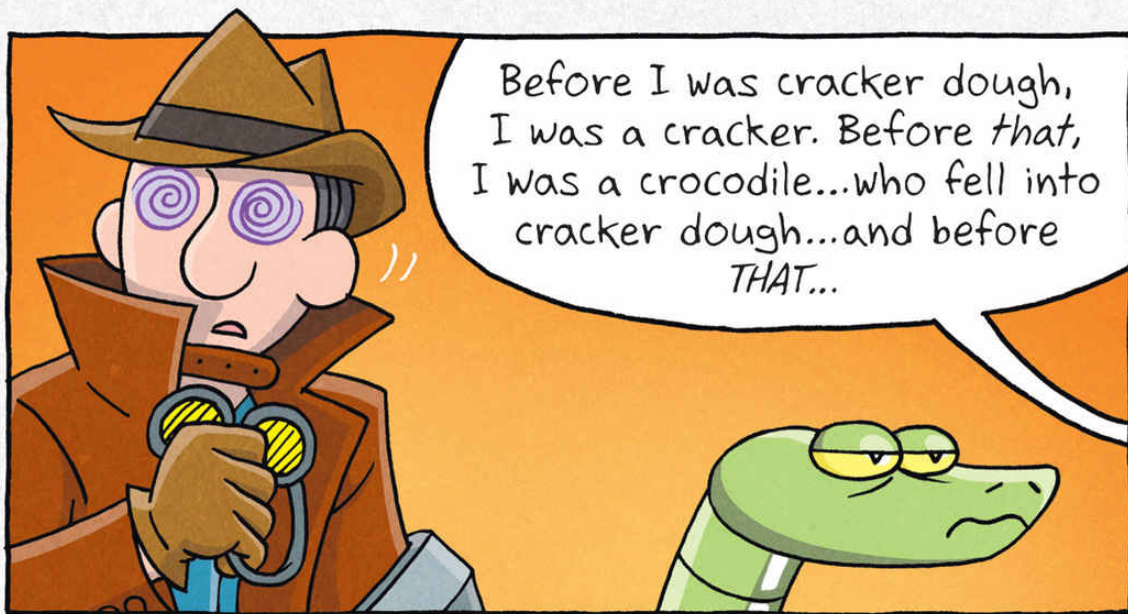


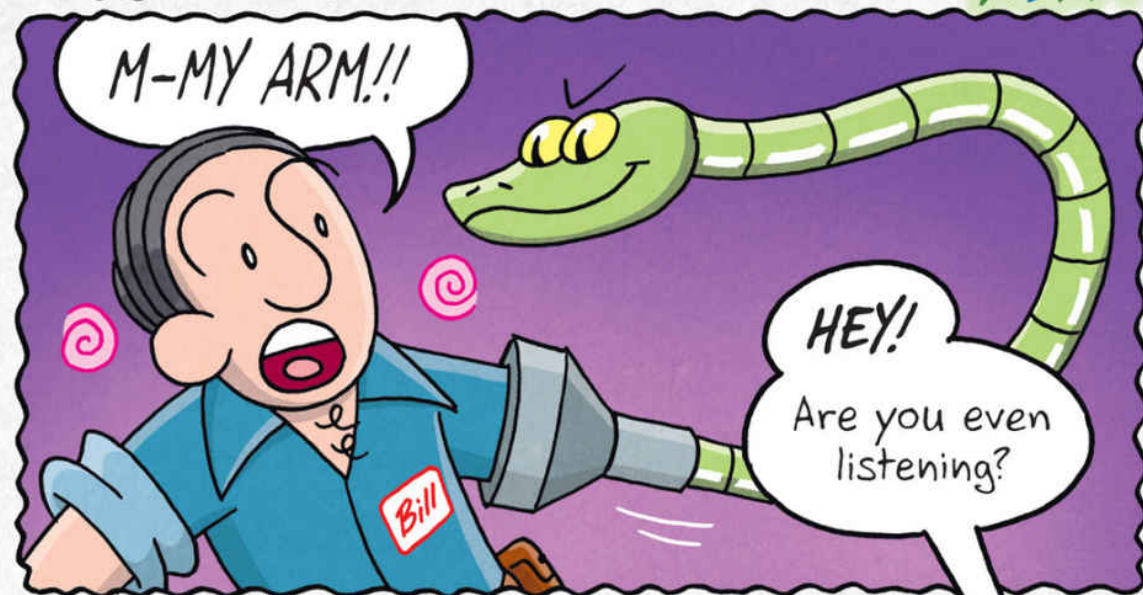
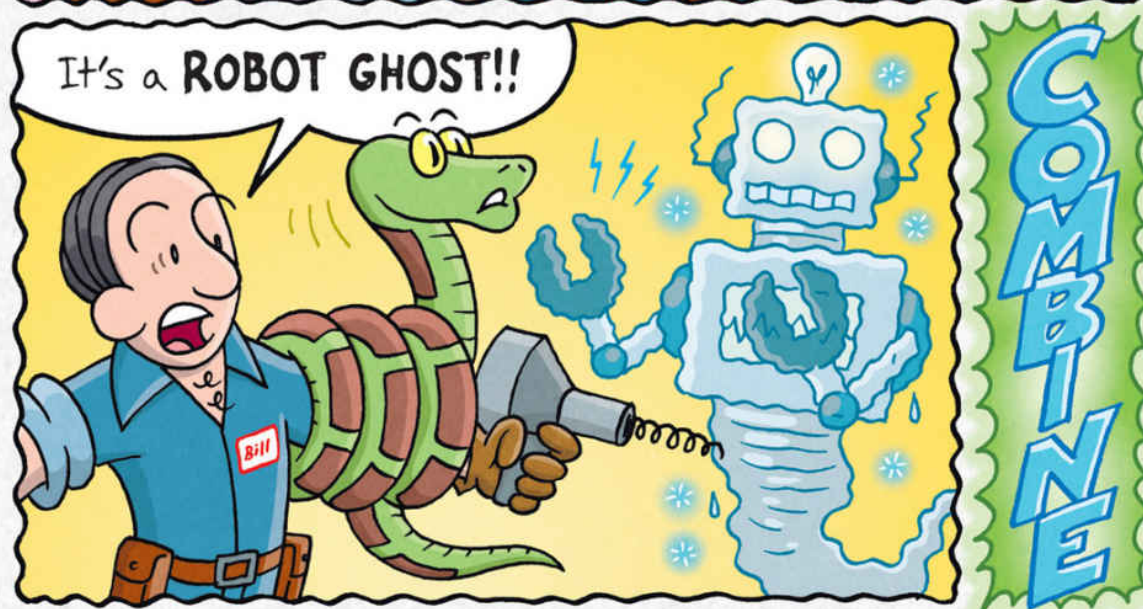
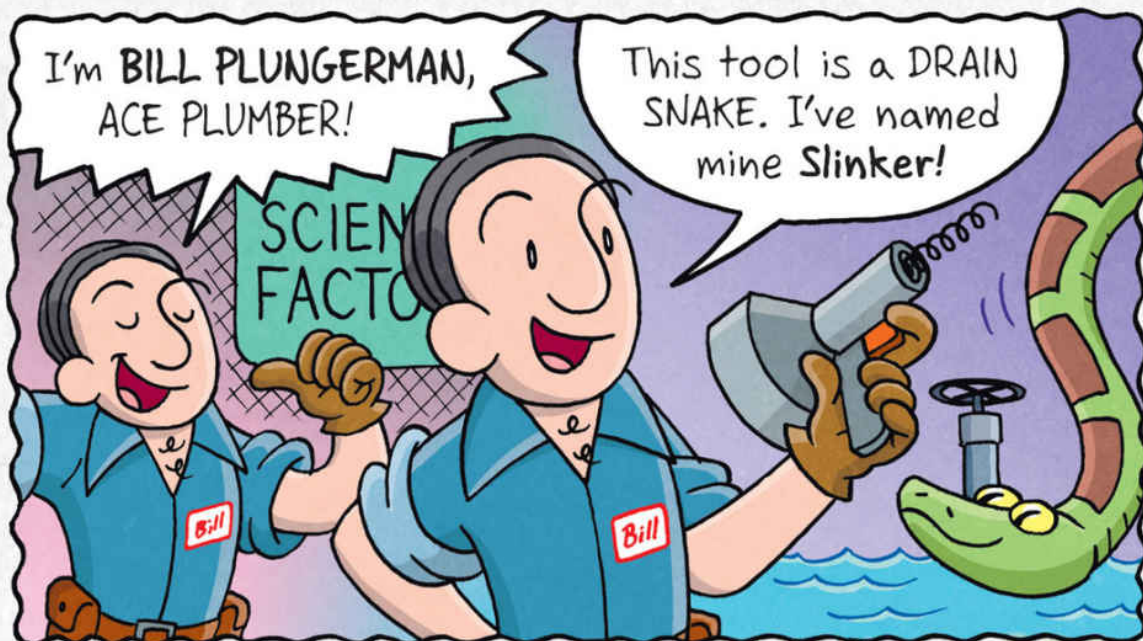
Bah! None of this junk will help me, **CRACKERDILE**, be restored from this bucket of dough back to my crispy, crackery condition.

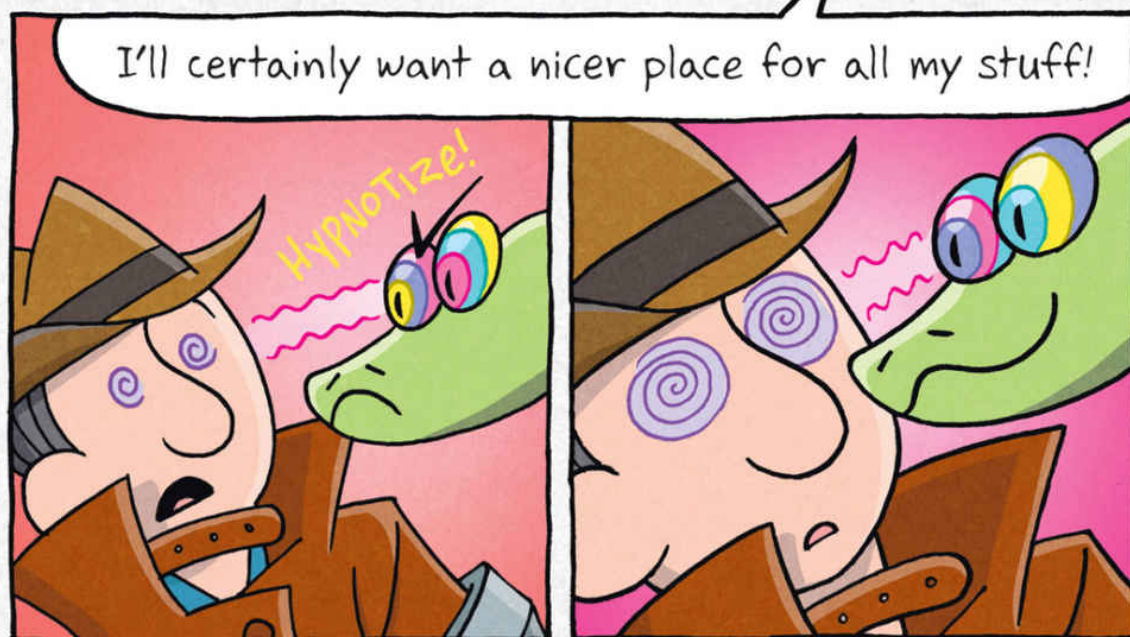
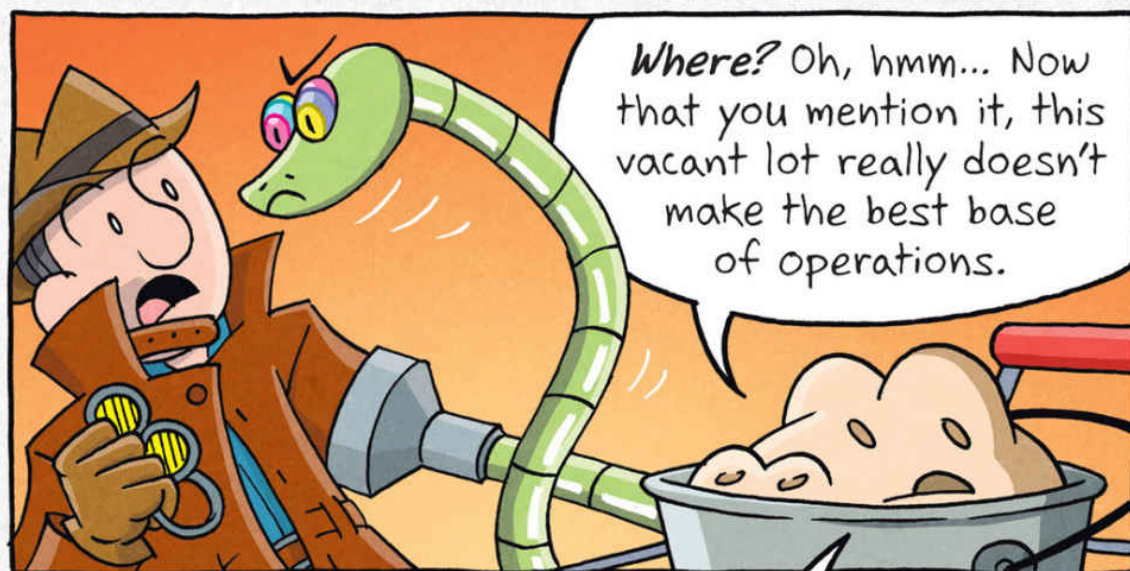


Not that that crumbly carcass was ever all it was cracked up to be.





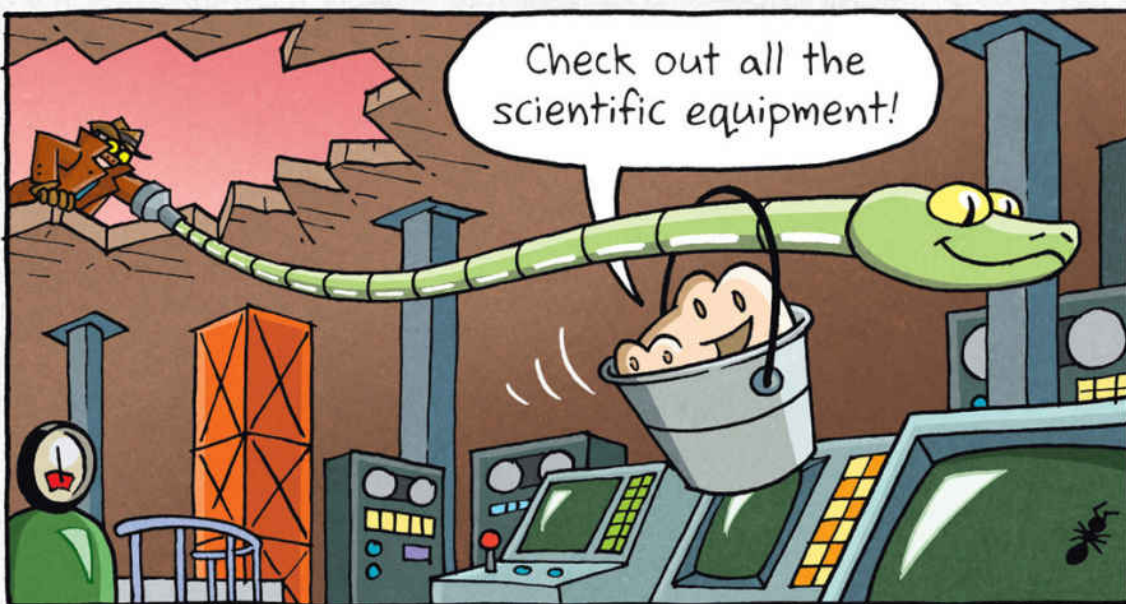
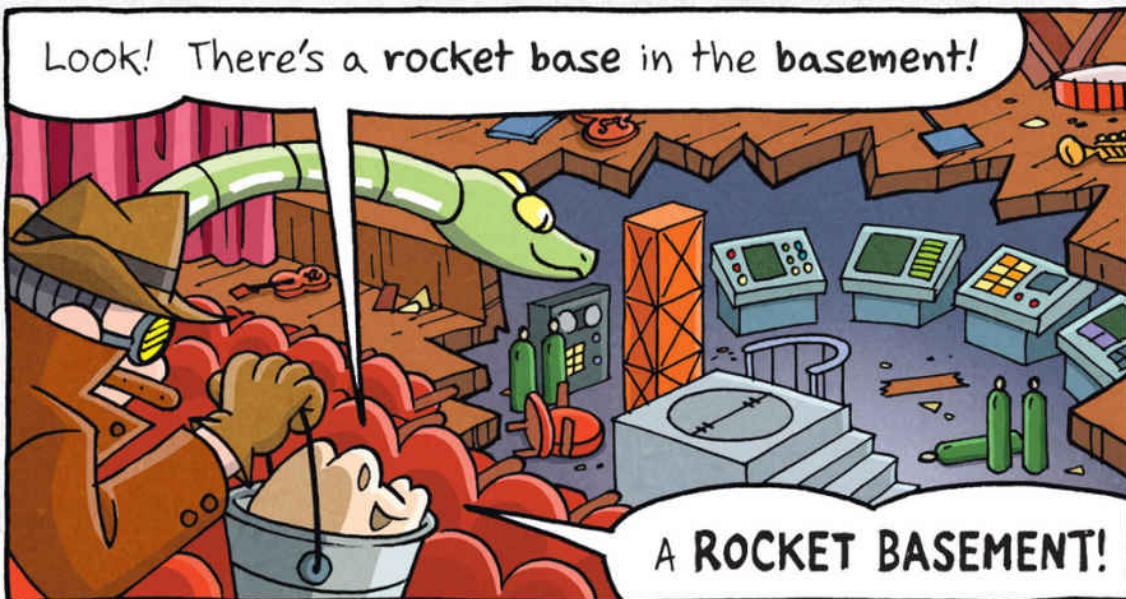
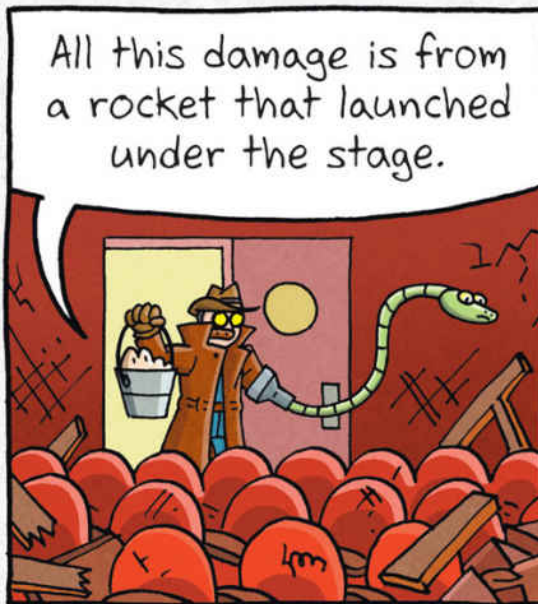


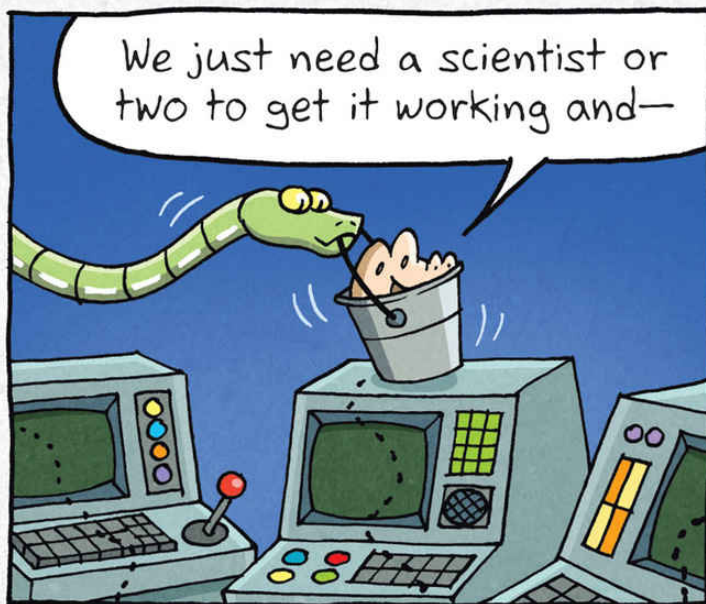




Chapter 4

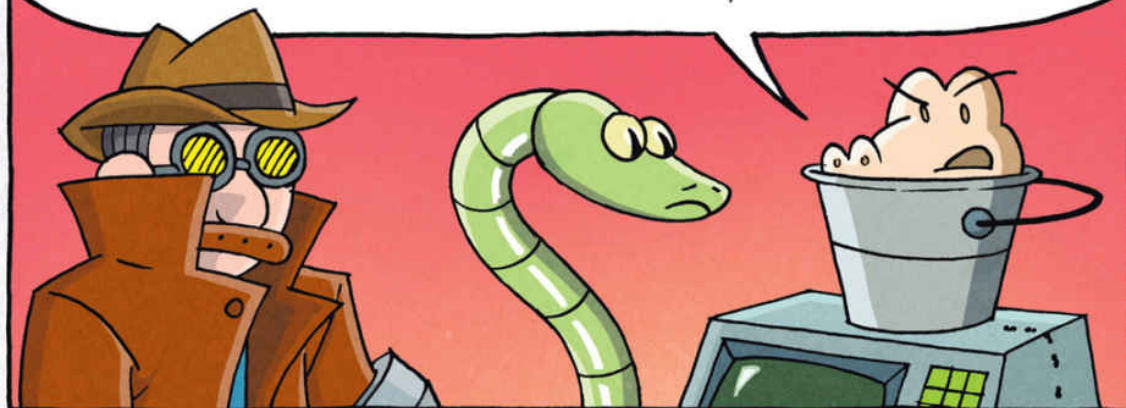








This place is definitely a *fixer-upper*. You may be a plumber, but we'll need a *lot* more help—like a bunch of construction workers to repair that roof.

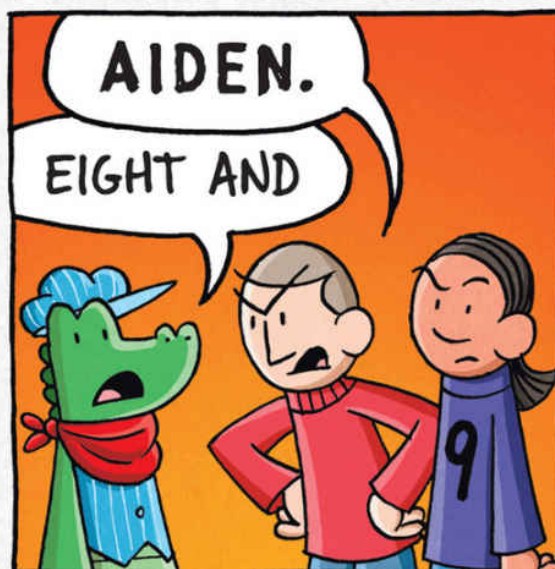


Pigeon poop is one thing, but if we find a way to rebake me *back* into a cracker, I certainly can't risk getting rained on!

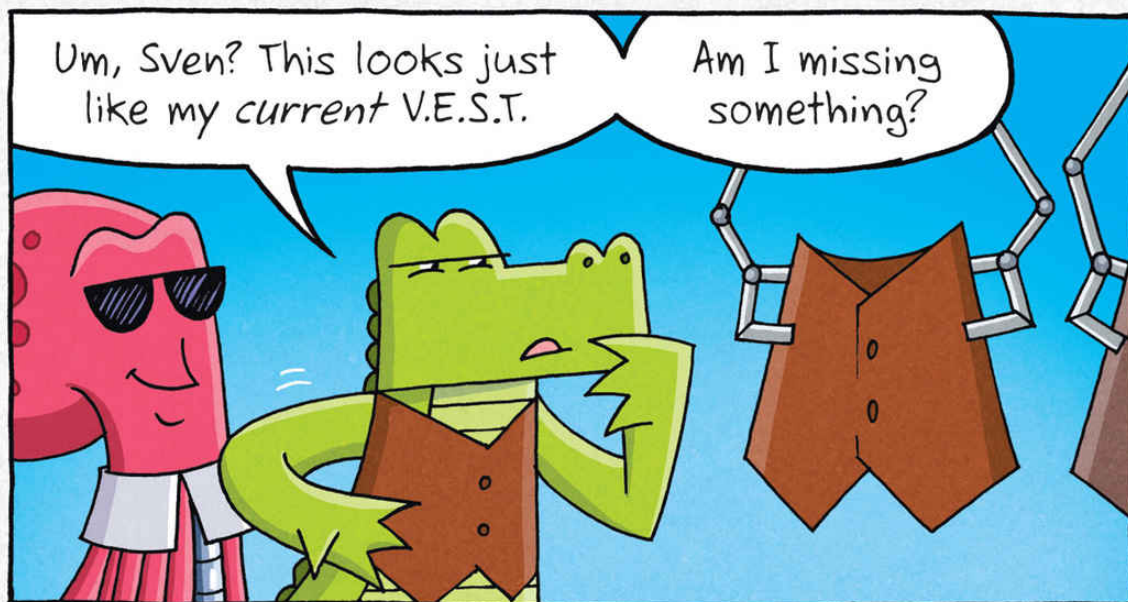
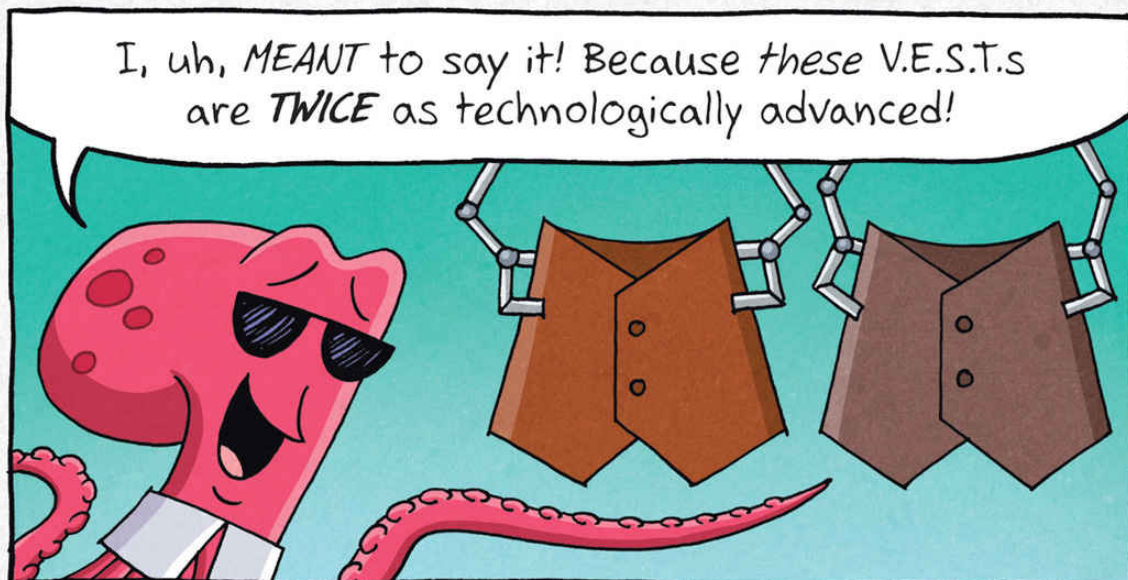
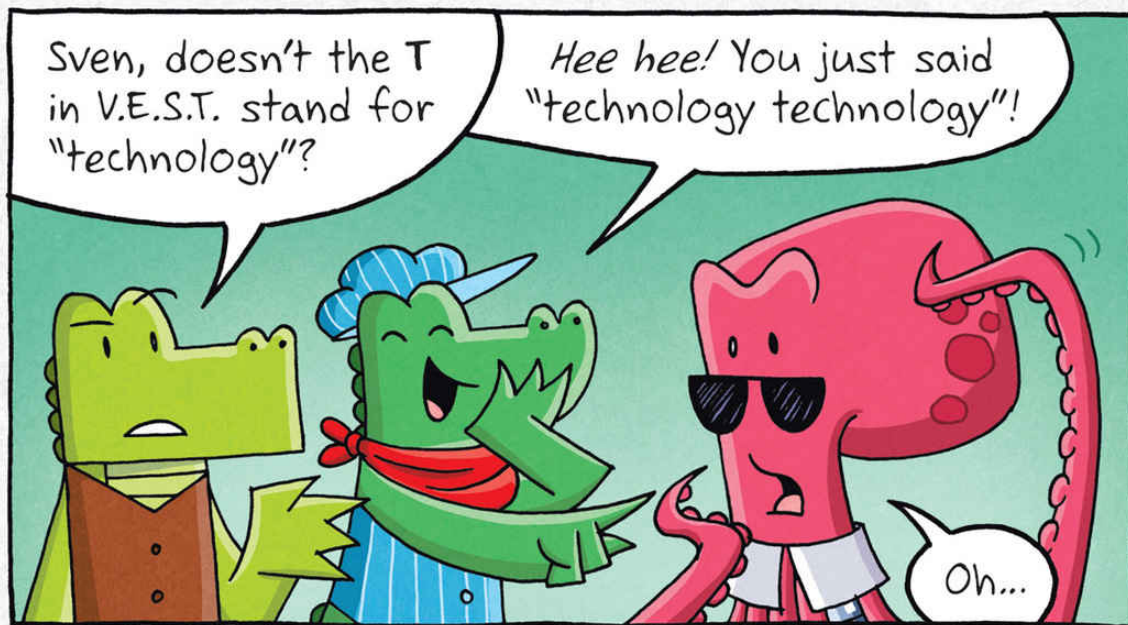


Chapter 5

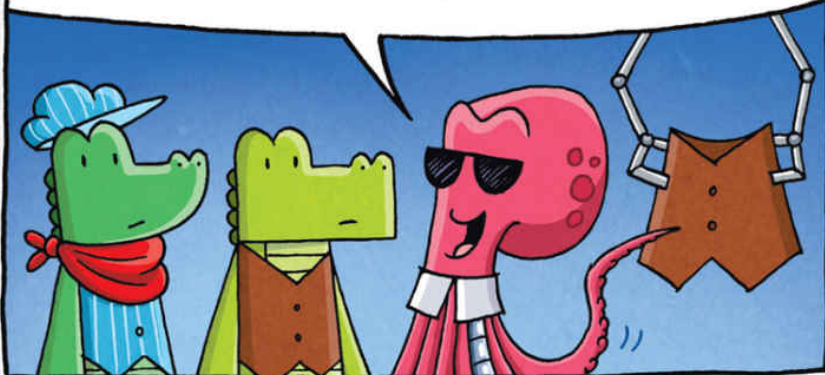




*Very Exciting Spy Technology



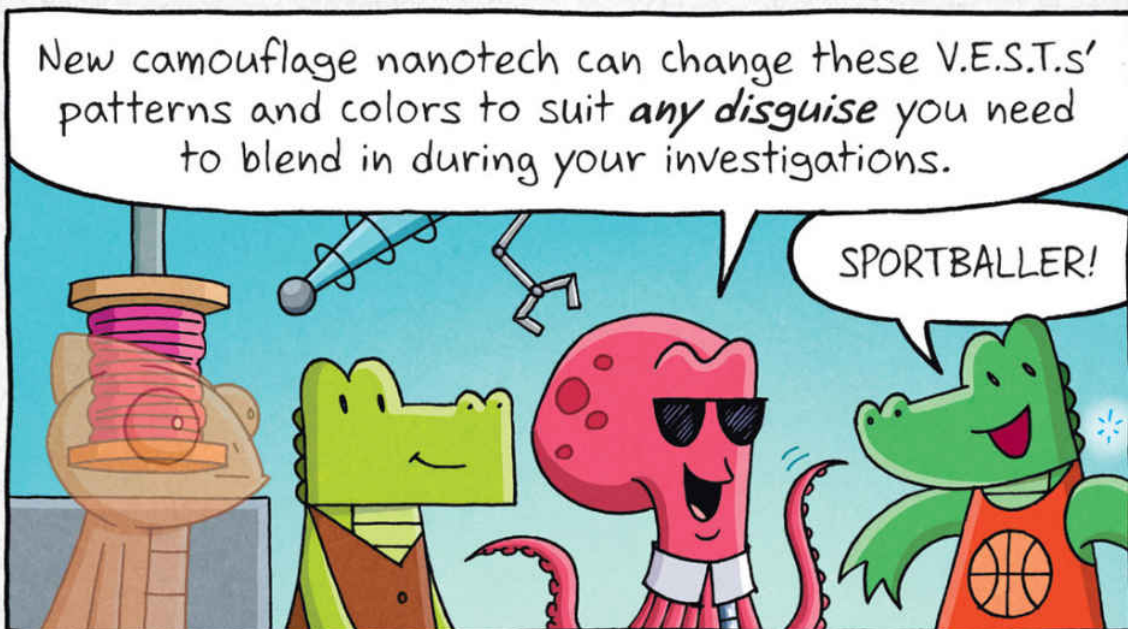
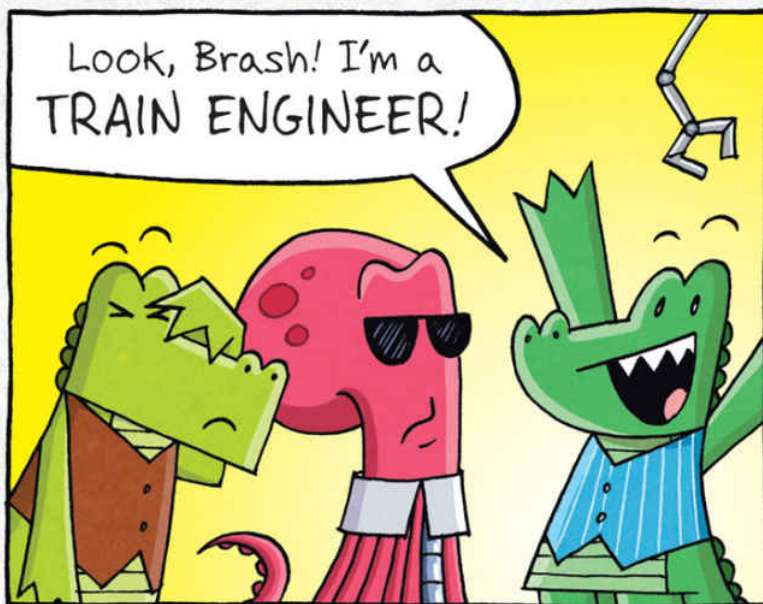
Indeed you are, Brash! Previously you needed a different V.E.S.T. for each new undercover job. But now...

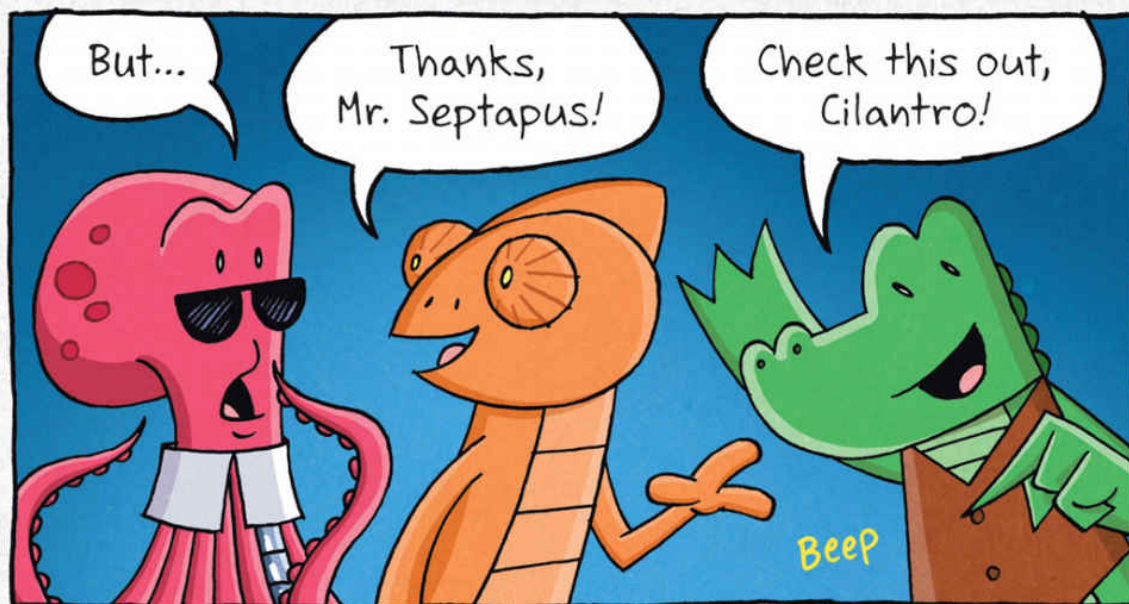
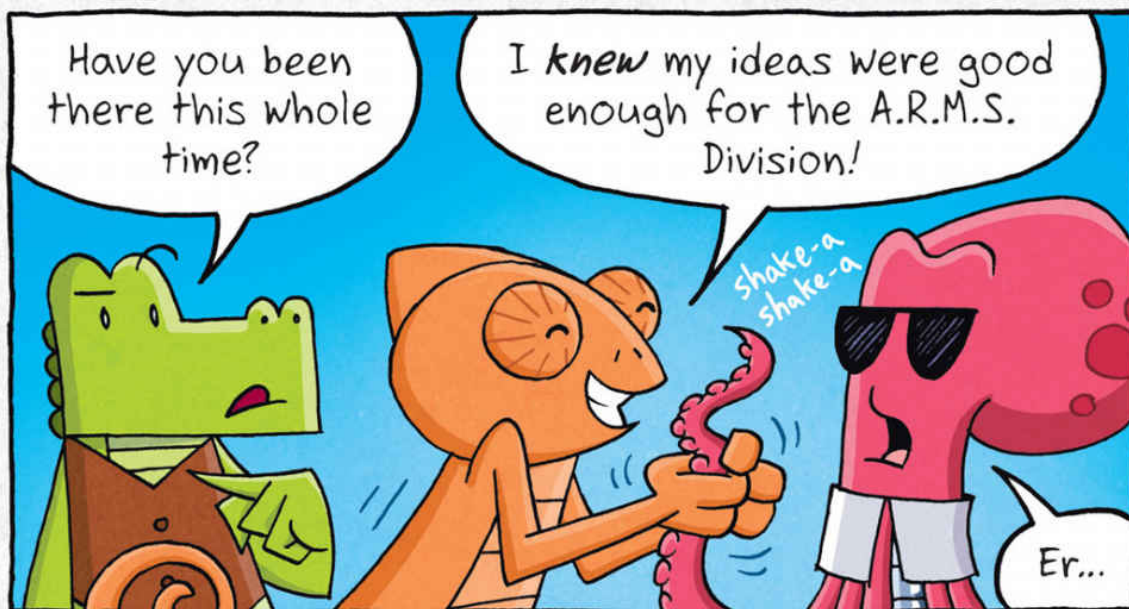
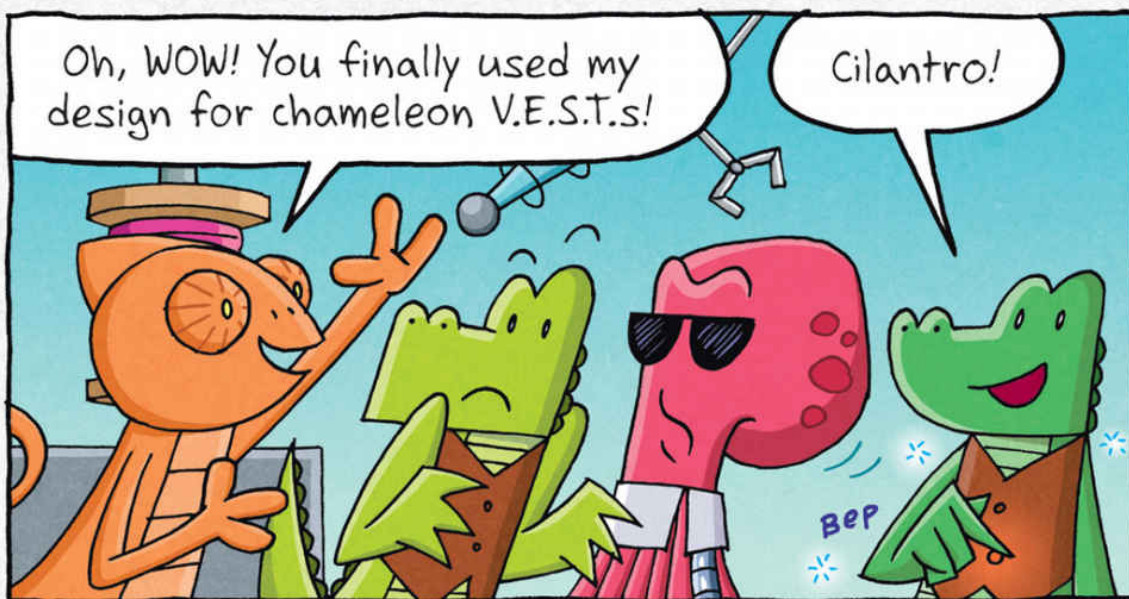


COOL! I wanna try it out!

Be my guest!







♪ With a press of his V.E.S.T., Mango's ready for the ocean! ♪



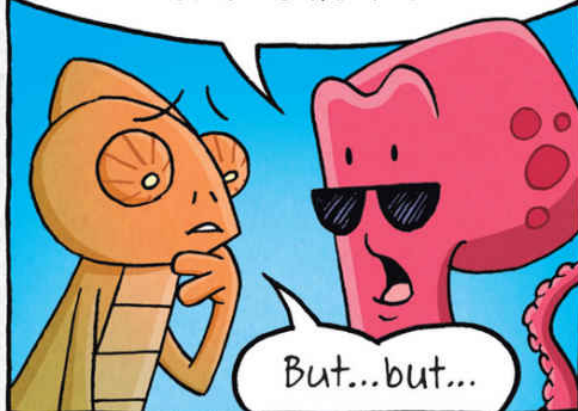
♪♪ Cilantro's idea should earn her a promotion! ♪♪



I'm sorry, Cilantro, but I didn't get the idea from you. Yes, you're a chameleon, but octopuses can change their color and texture, too.



I've been perfecting this technology for as long as I can remember.

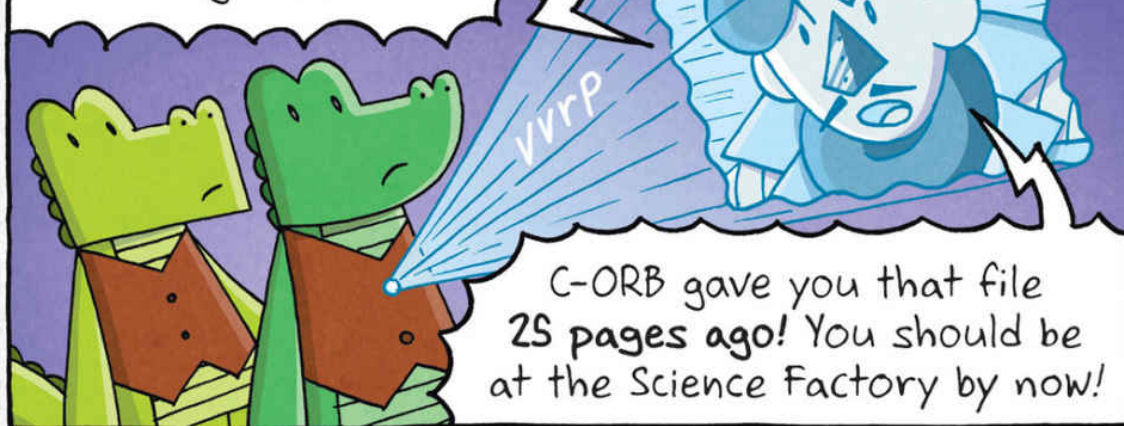


I thought the plural of octopus was octopi...?

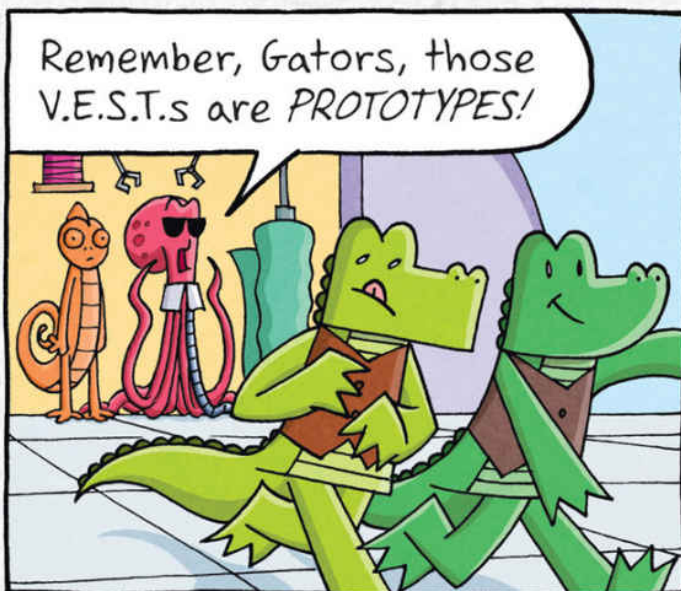


InvestiGators!

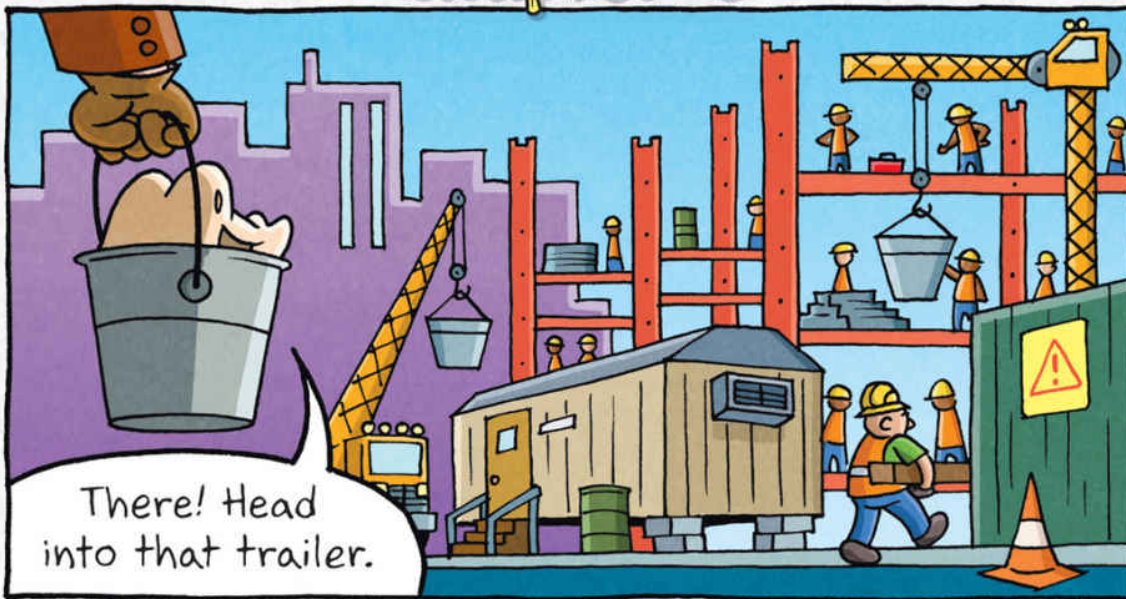
Where are you on the Bill Plungerman case?

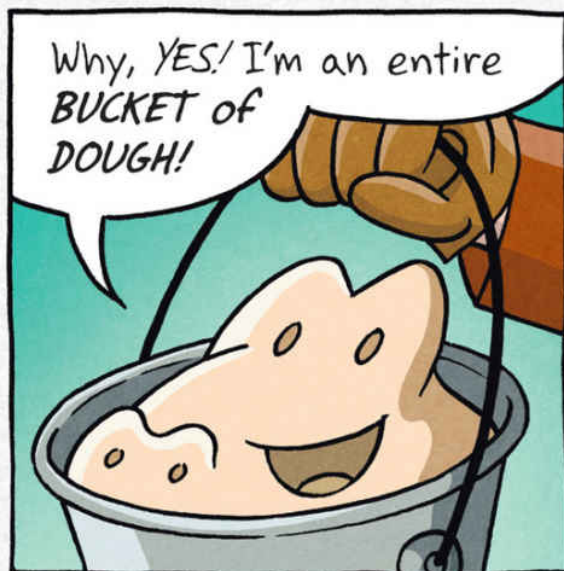
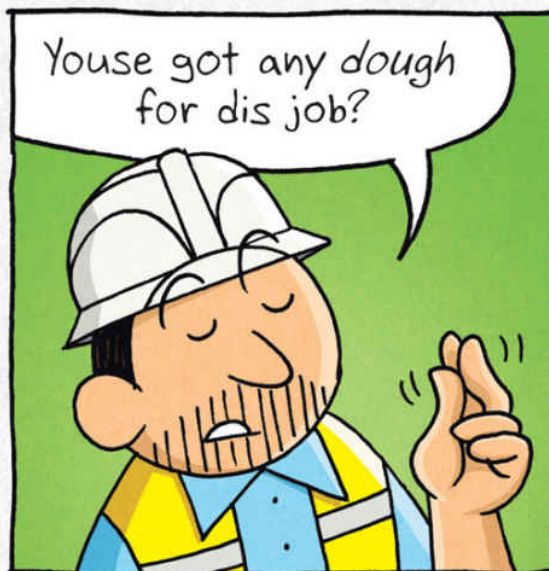


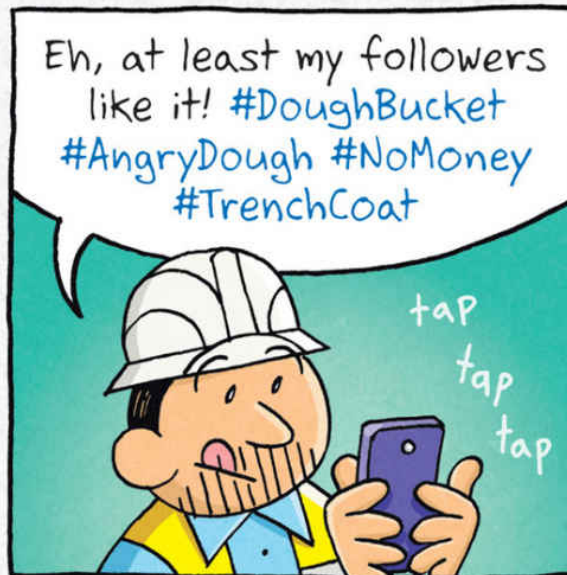
C-ORB gave you that file 25 pages ago! You should be at the Science Factory by now!



Chapter 6





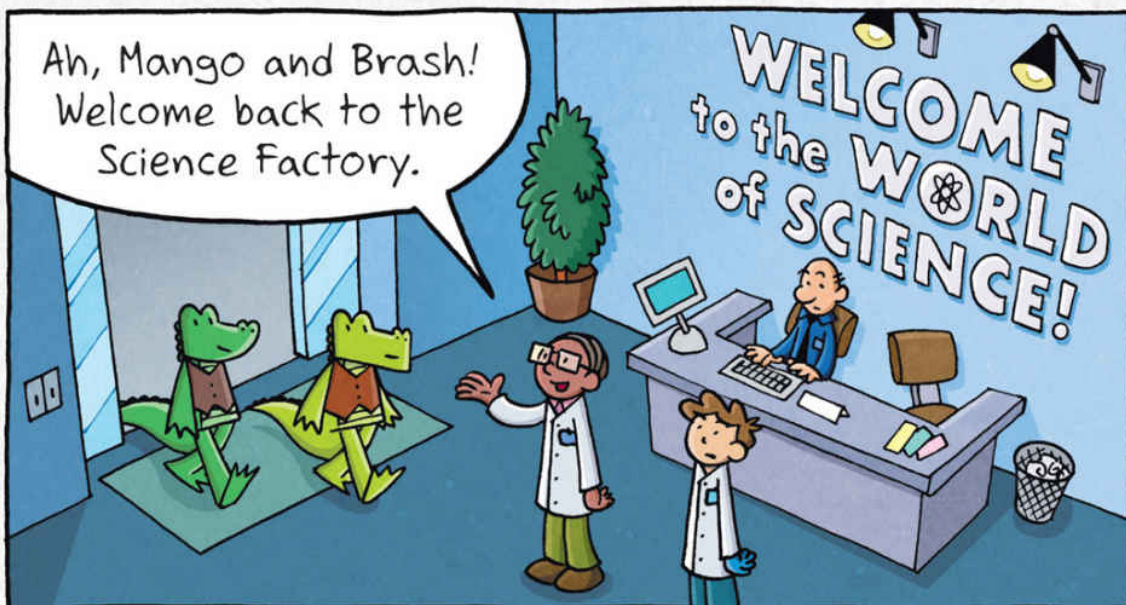
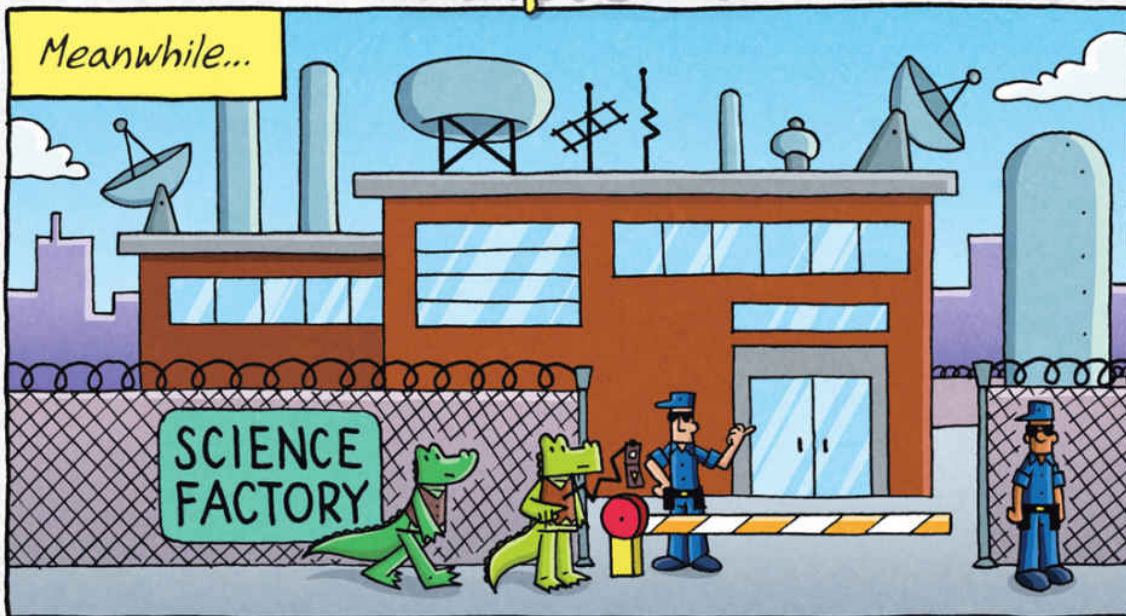


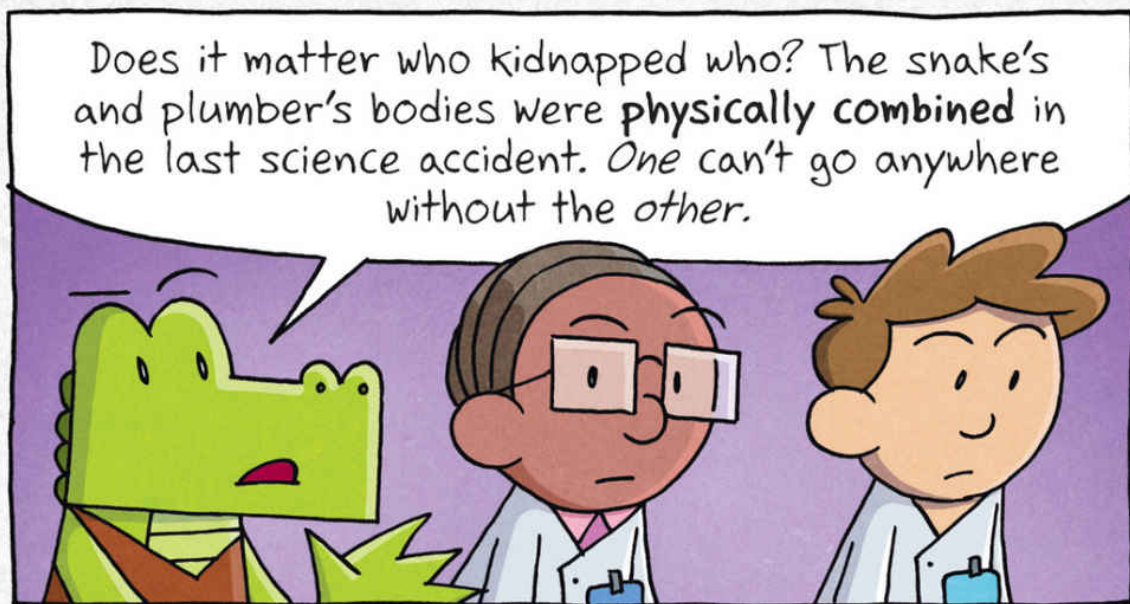
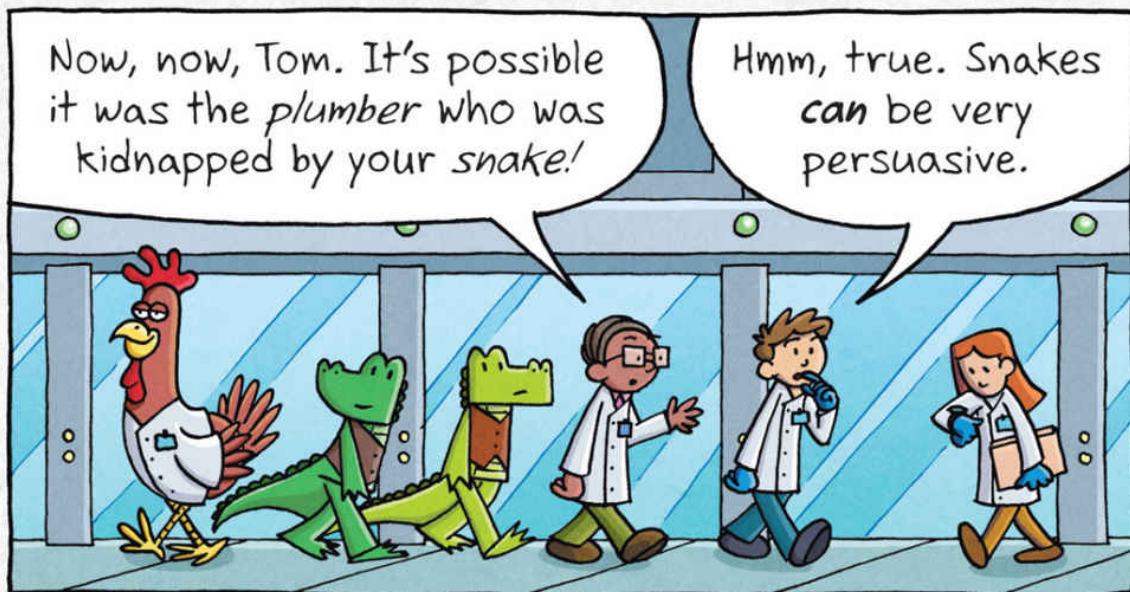






Chapter 7



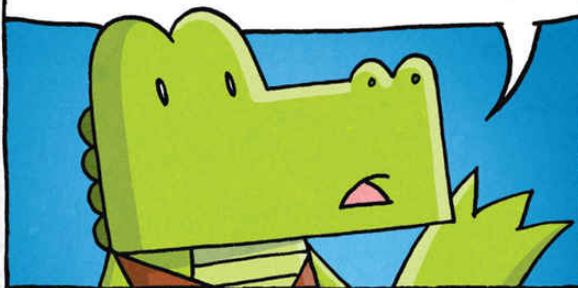


Yes, their bodies were combined. But now their *one* body has *TWO HEADS!* And as the **Head Scientist**, I can tell you that two heads aren't always better than one!

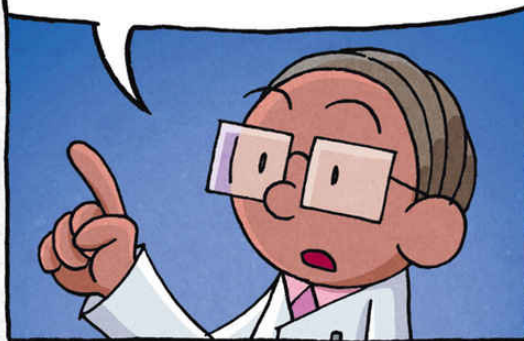


Two heads means two **BRAINS**, and it's my guess that the brain of the snake and the brain of the plumber are fighting for control over their combined body.

That must be what's made Bill Plungerman so hard to find. Who could predict what a snake brain might do with a plumber body?



I've discovered another wrench in the works. Well, not a *wrench*, but a different tool—

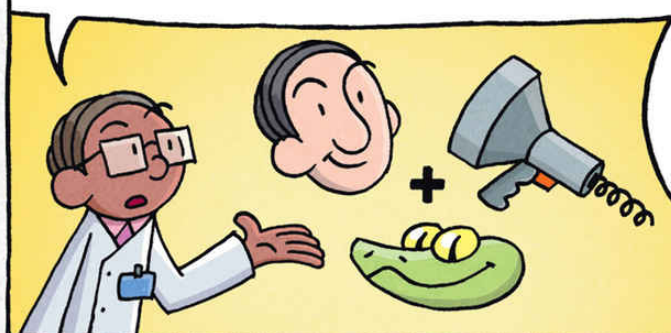


The plumber's **DRAIN SNAKE TOOL!**

That's right. Bill was here to unclog a drain. But *tools* don't have *brains*, Doc.



I saw on security footage from the incident that the snake was wrapped around the tool and the plumber's arm at the moment they all got combined.



That tool must be how the snake-arm got grappling hook powers!

With power like that, the snake and/or plumber might not *want* to be found!

OR cured! And uncombining their bodies and minds won't be easy. There's a huge risk of the plumber getting the snake's mind or vice versa.



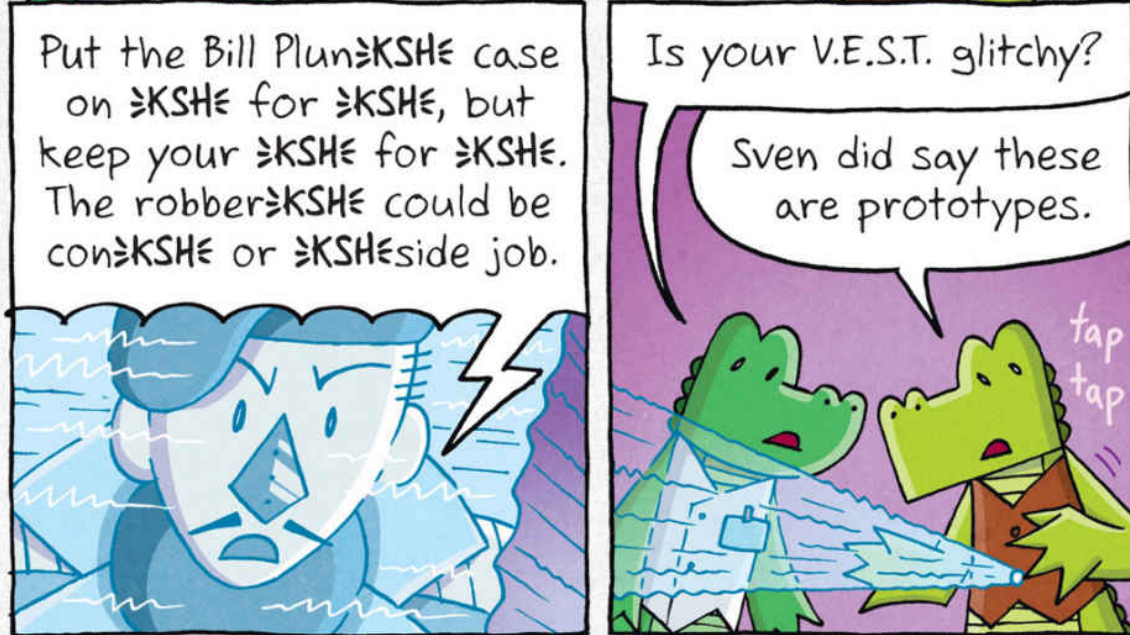
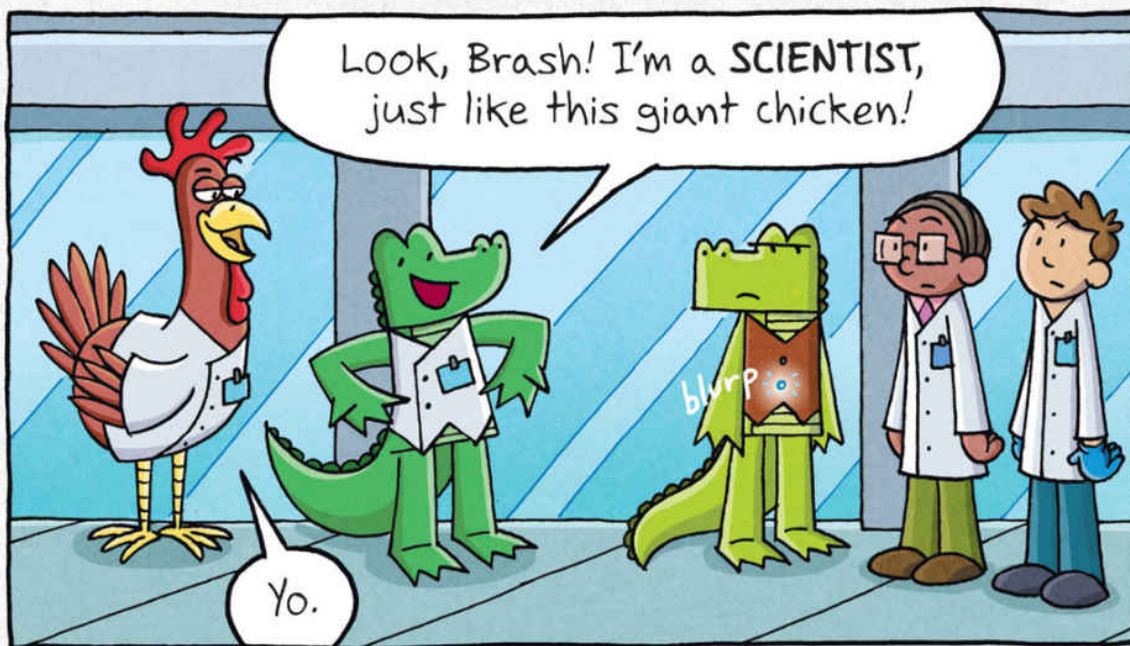
And one of them could still be combined with the drain snake tool!

But if I can invent a device that can hold both of their minds, we could extract their consciousnesses before we uncombine their bodies—and make sure the right mind winds up in the right body afterward!

Well, first we need to find this plumber-snake combo. Right, Mango?



Mango?



Go under~~KSHE~~er as INVESTMENT BANKERS
and ge~~KSHE~~ to the botto~~KSHE~~ of it!

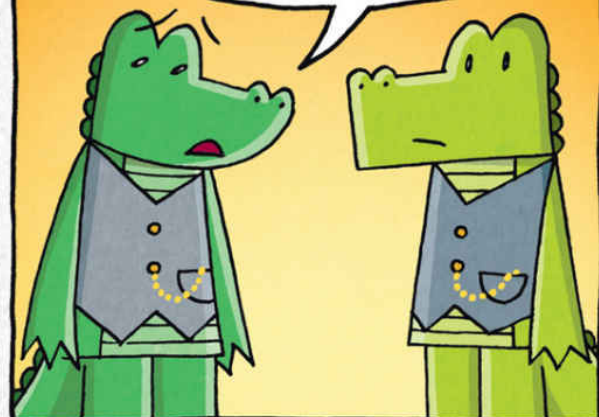
Copy that!



This is the perfect
opportunity to field
test these V.E.S.T.s!



Aw, this outfit is BORING.
InvestigaBankers just
wear gray suits.



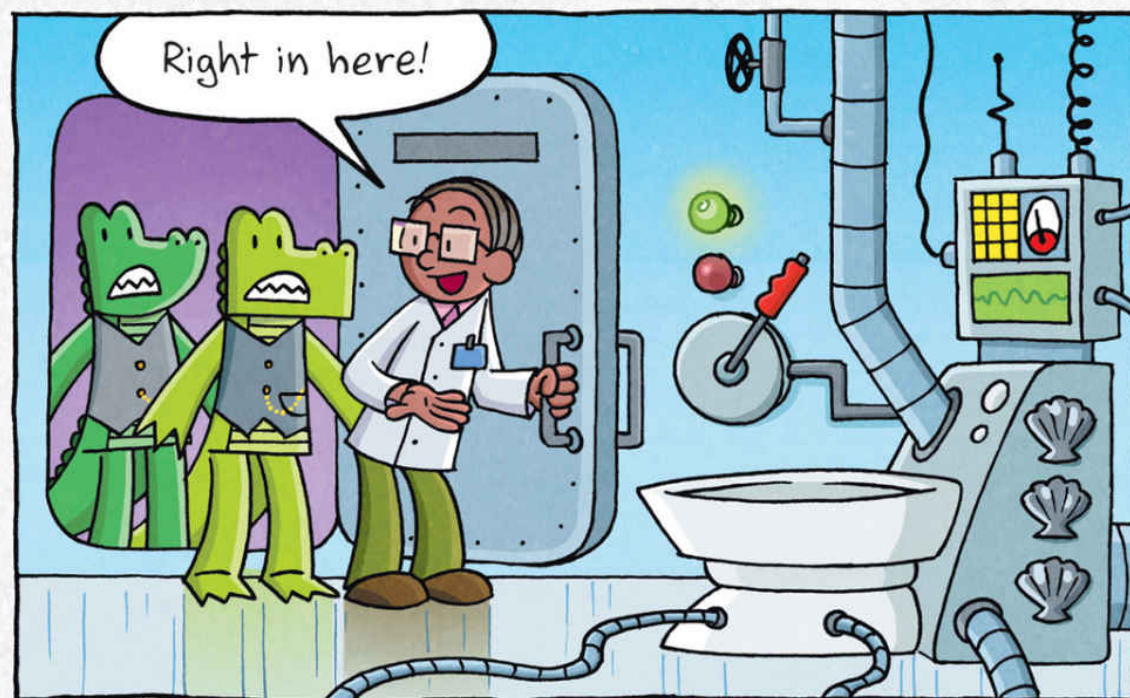
You mean "investment bankers."

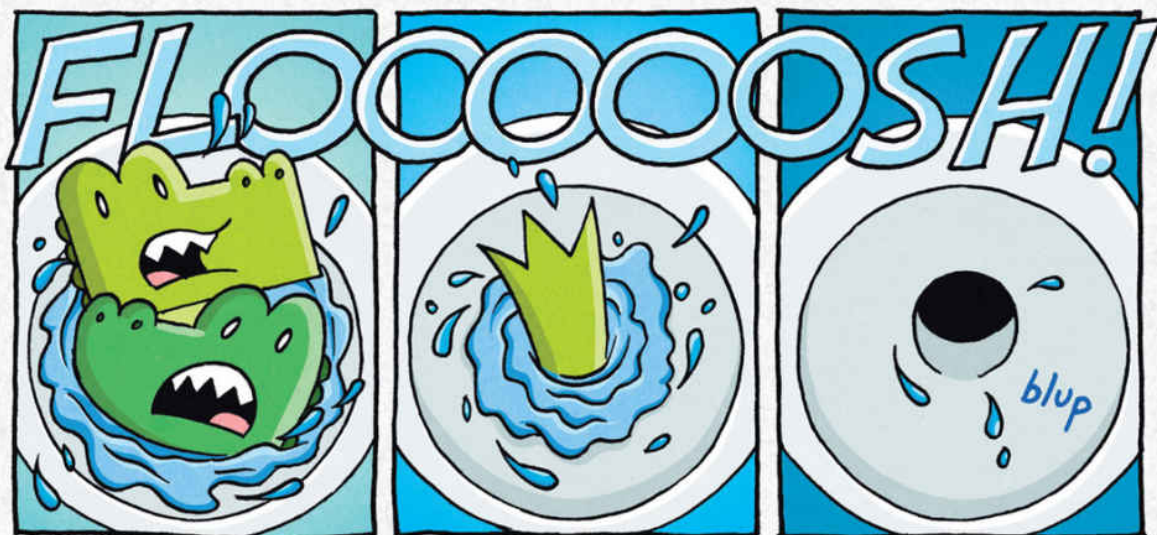
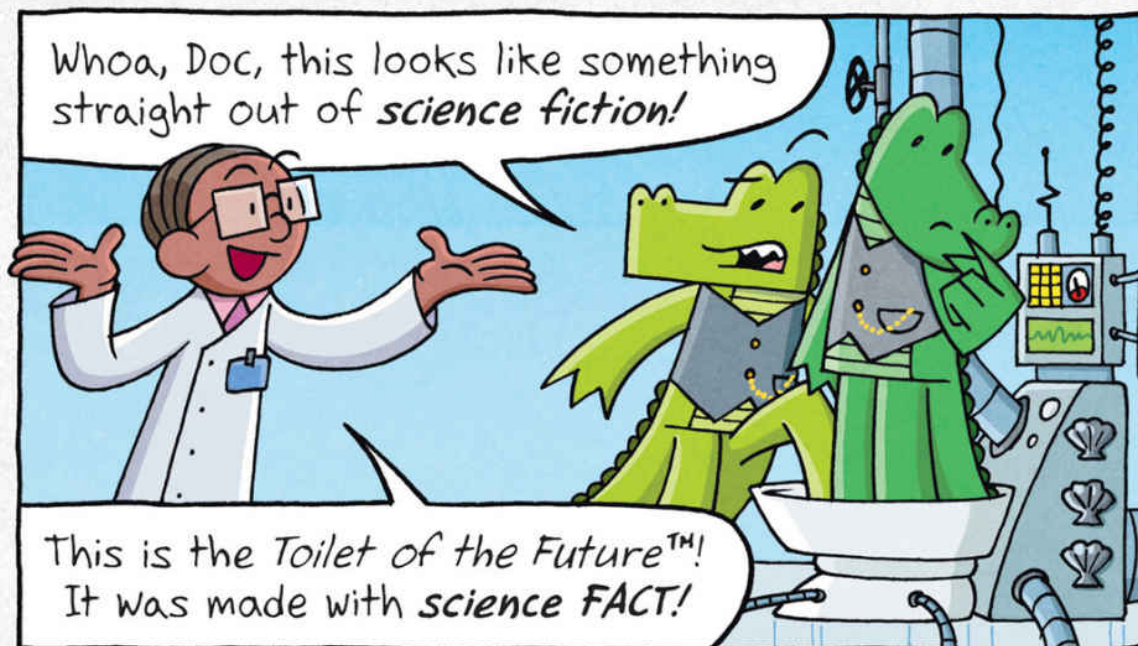
That's what I said, InvestigaBankers.

Investment
bankers.

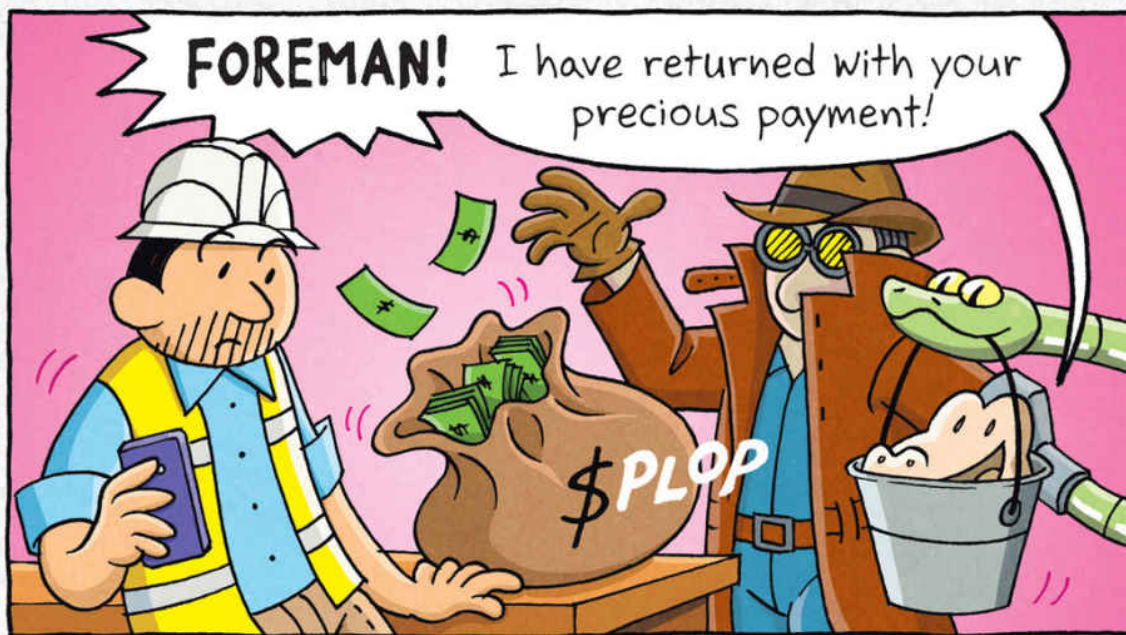
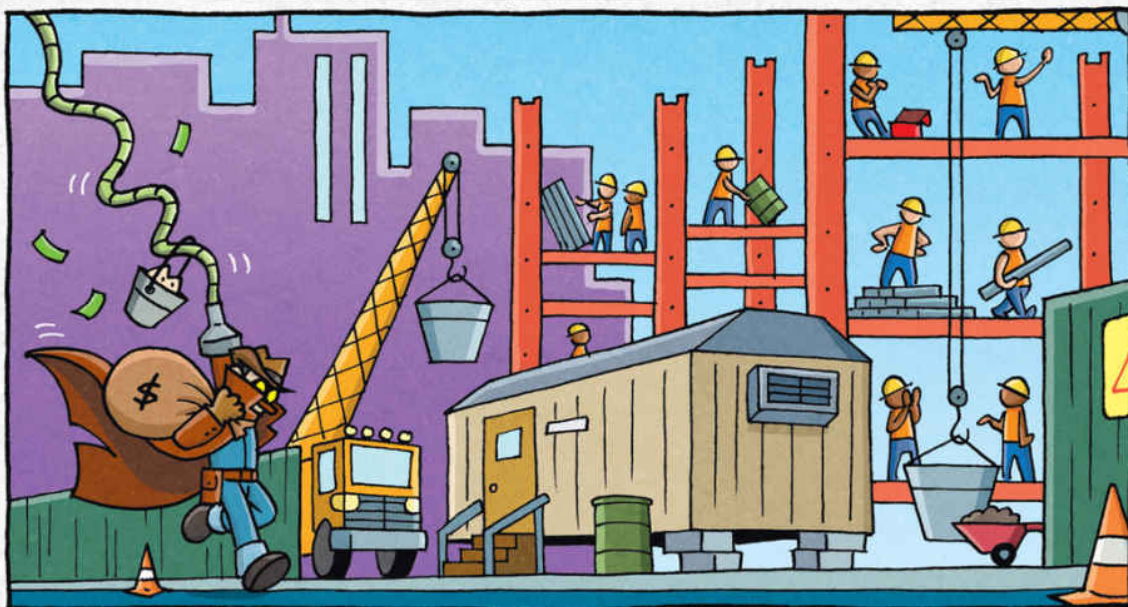
Investiga-
Bankers.

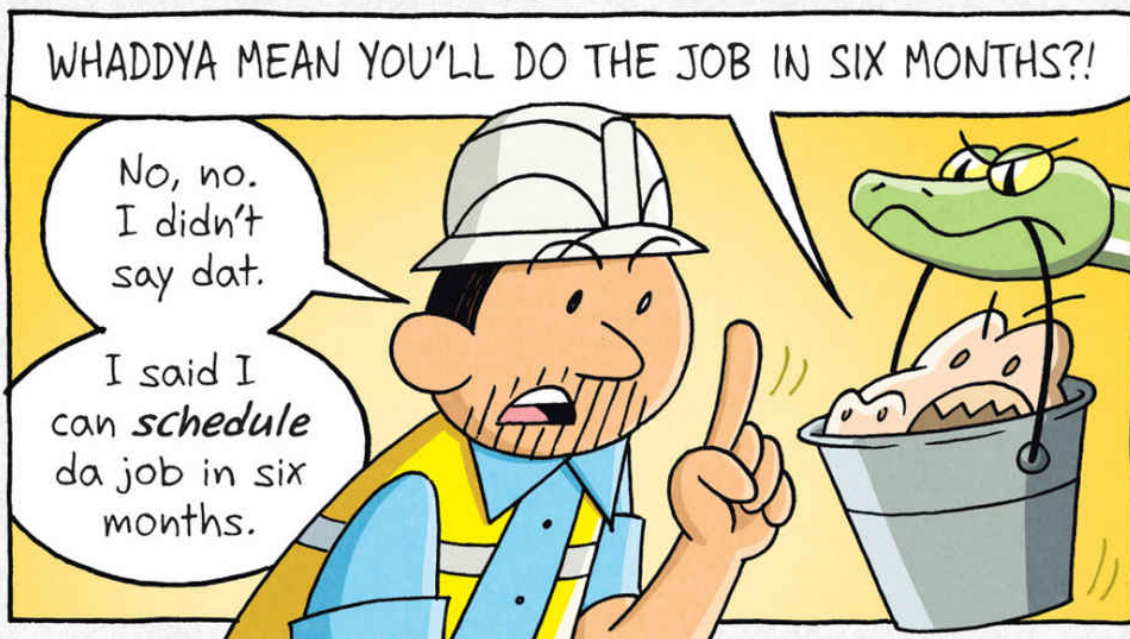






Chapter Aiden—I MEAN—8

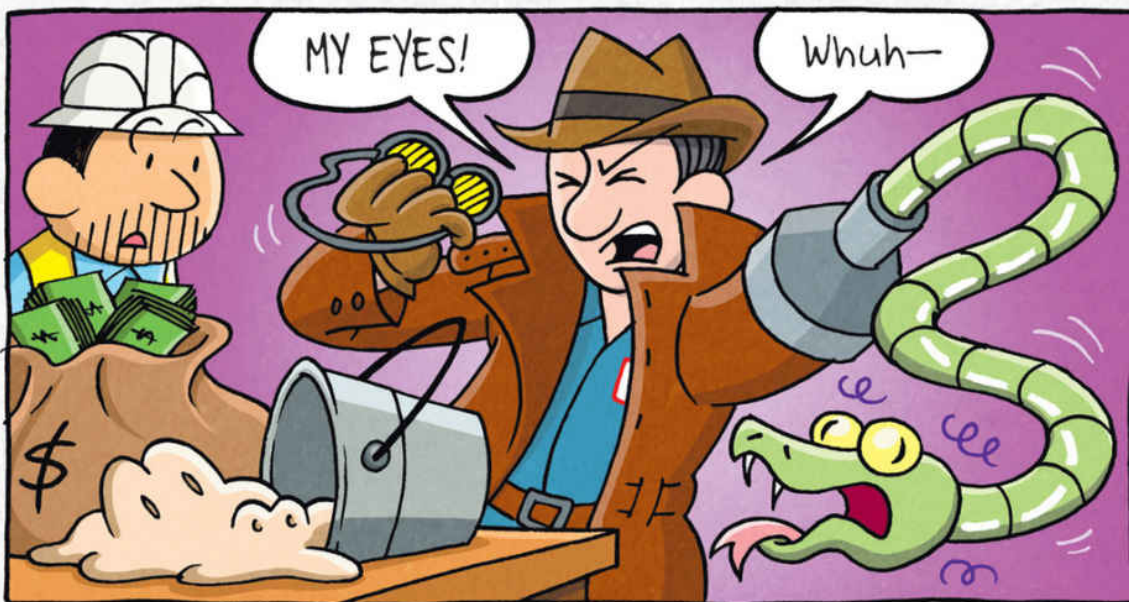


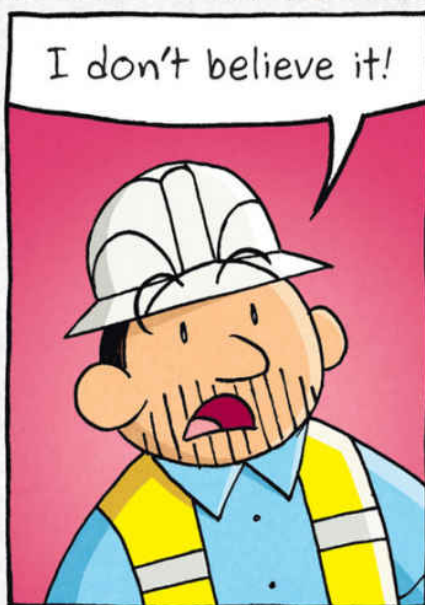


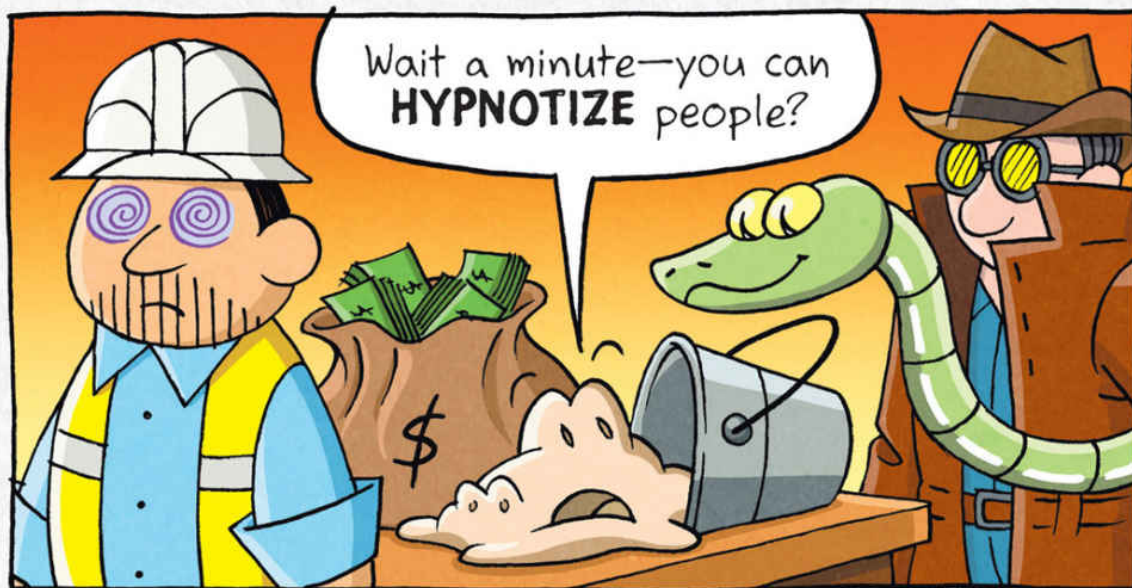
A YEAR?!!

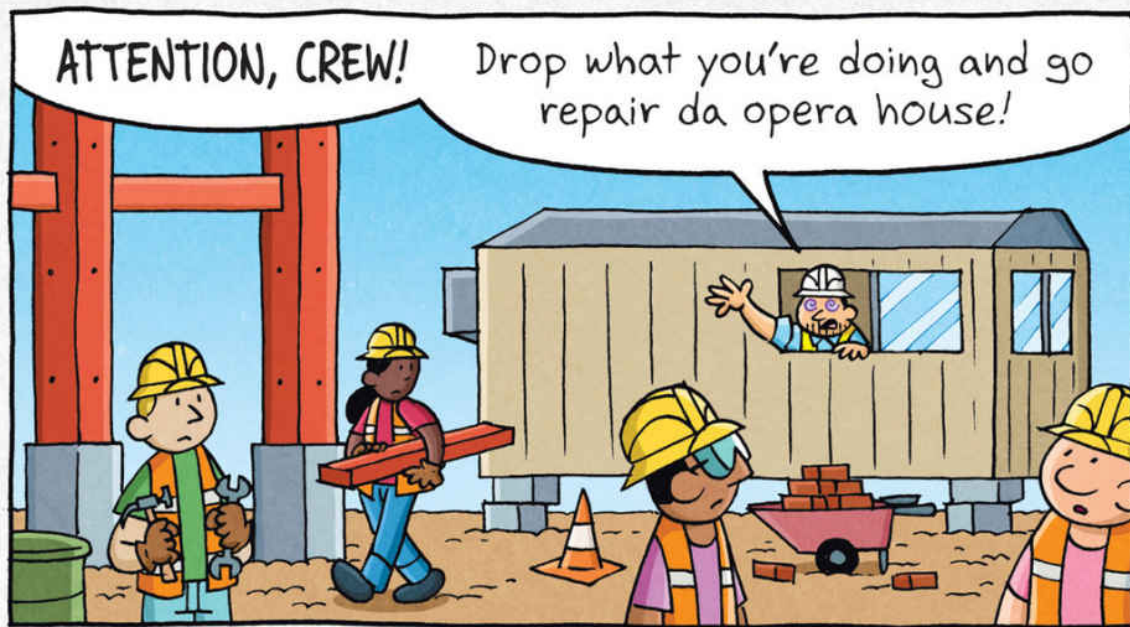


Aw, dis is too funny!
#AngryDoughBucket
I gotta get a picture
of youse. Heh heh!



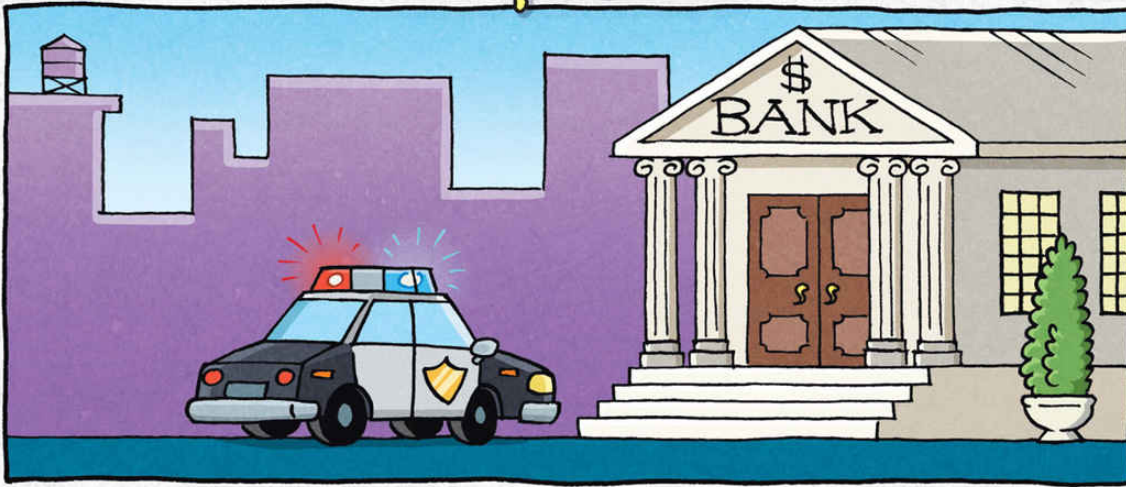








Chapter 9



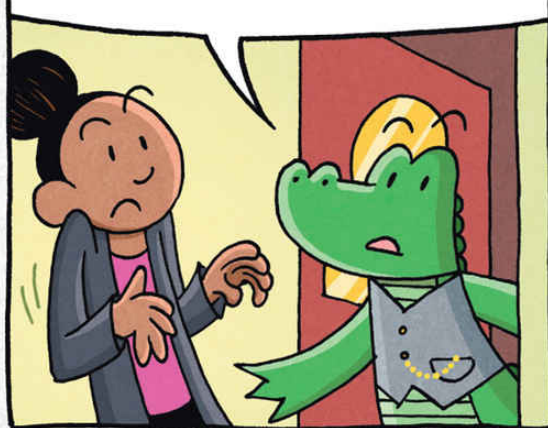
Thanks, ma'am. We'll see what we can dough.
I mean, see what we can do.



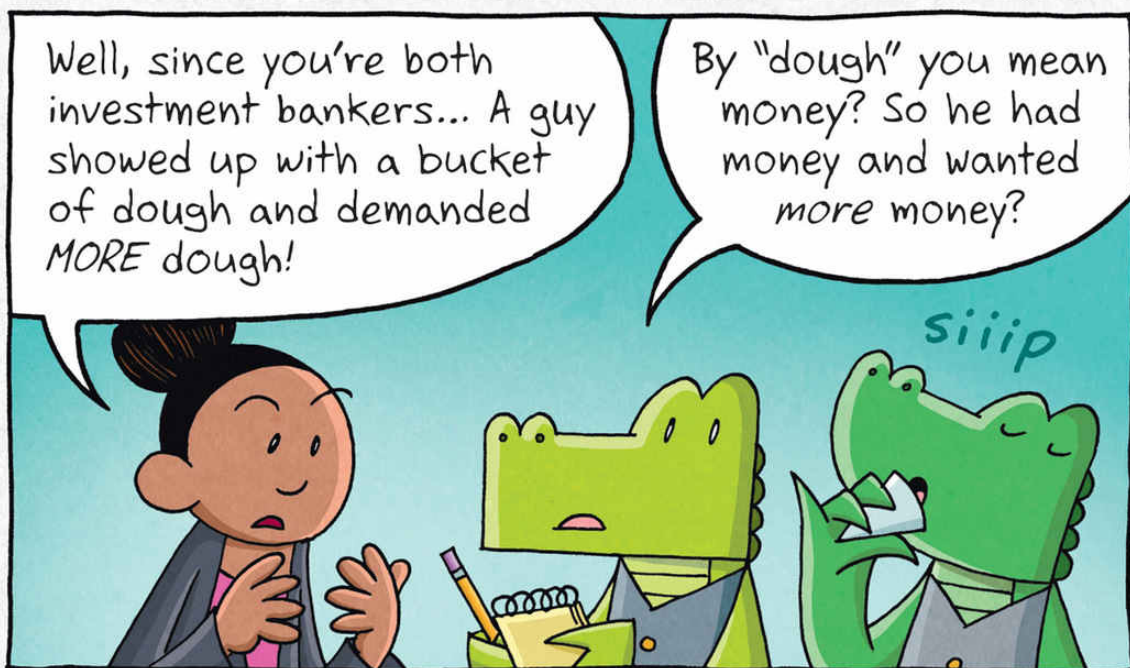
I—I need to freshen up
after all this excitement!

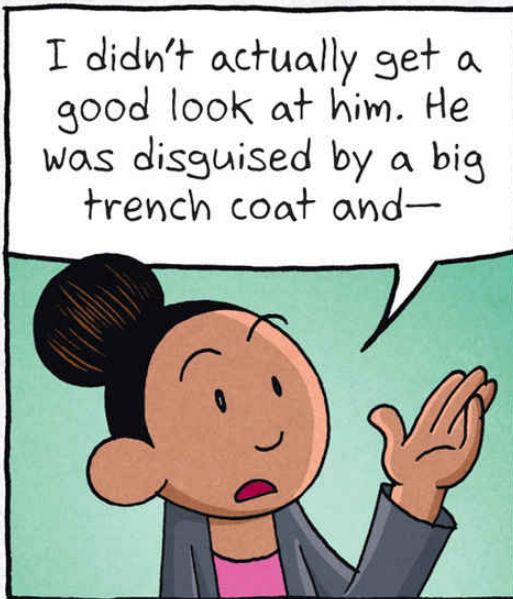


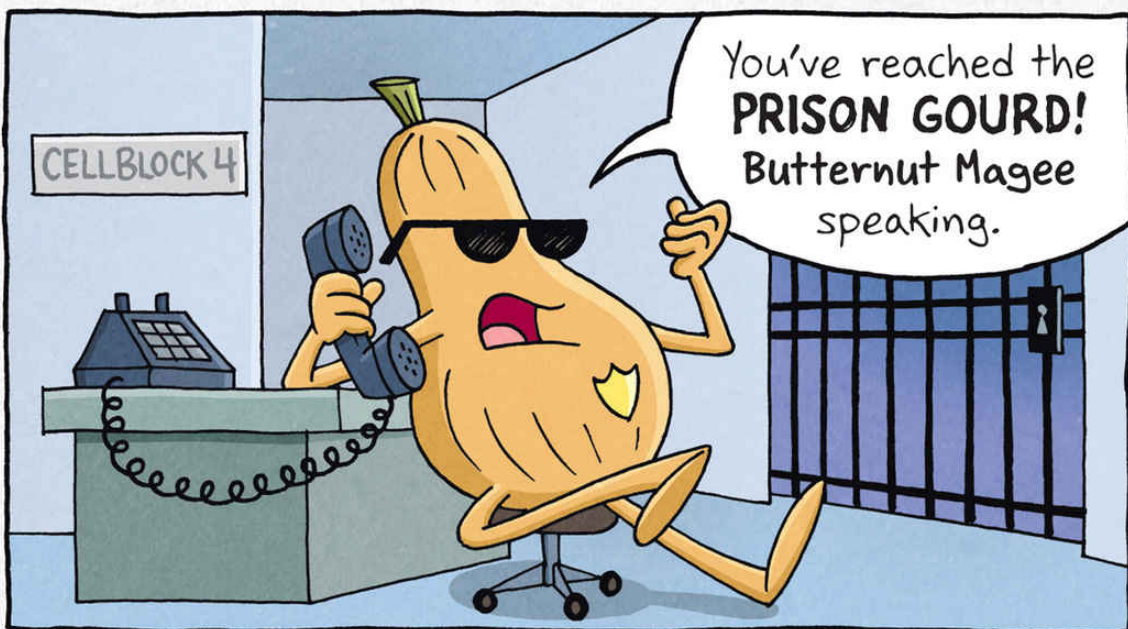
OH! Excuse me! You, uh,
may want to give it a
minute in there, if you
know what I mean.

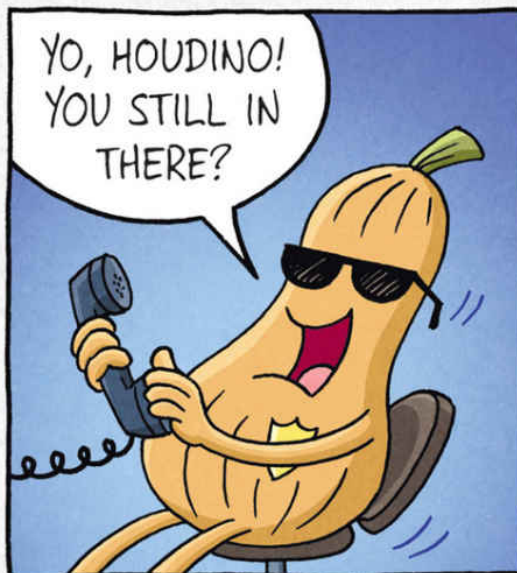
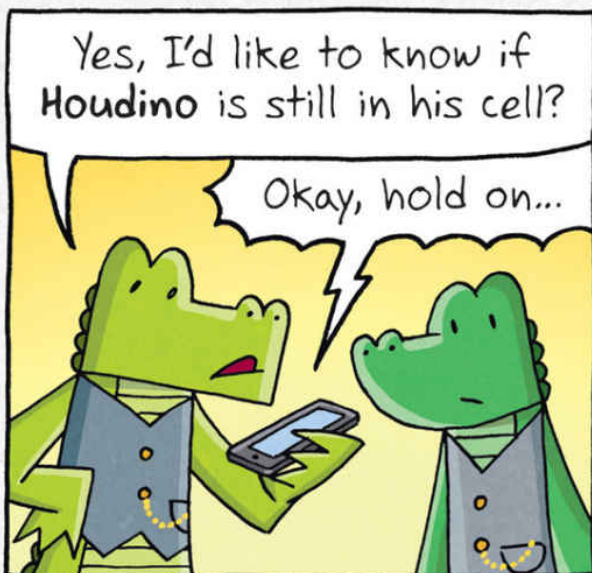


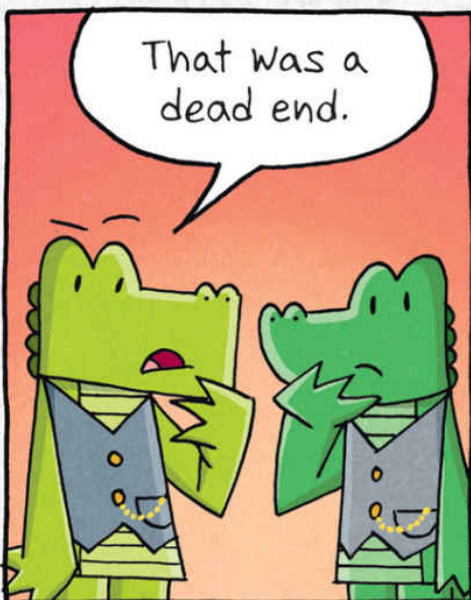
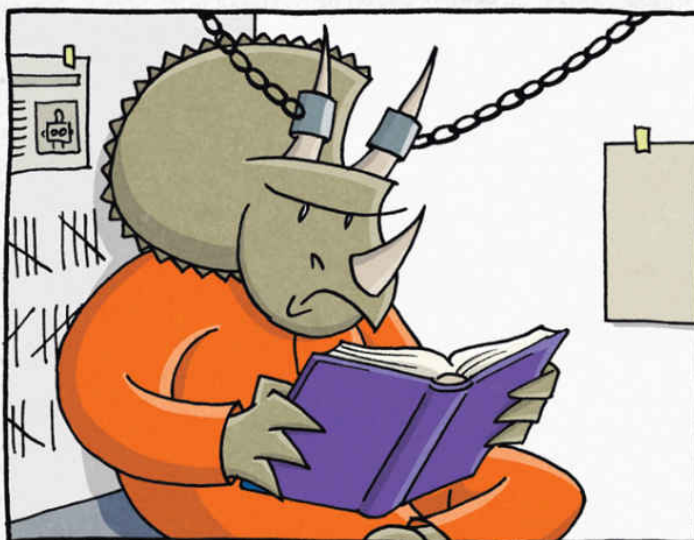












Okay, here's the truth: As investment bankers, which we are, we meet a lot of *criminals* in our line of work, which is investment banking, and—

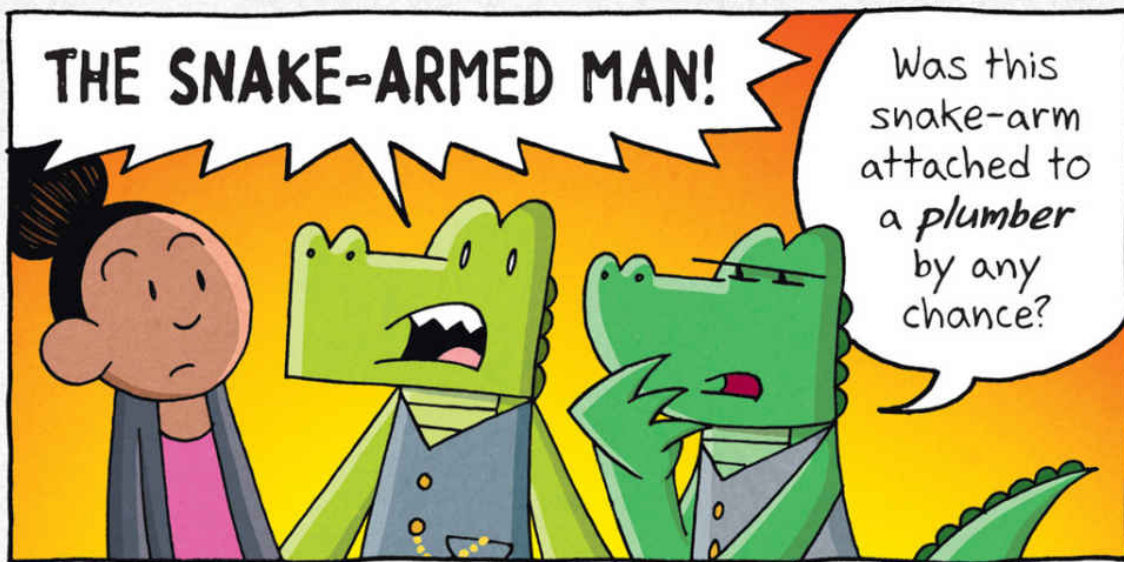


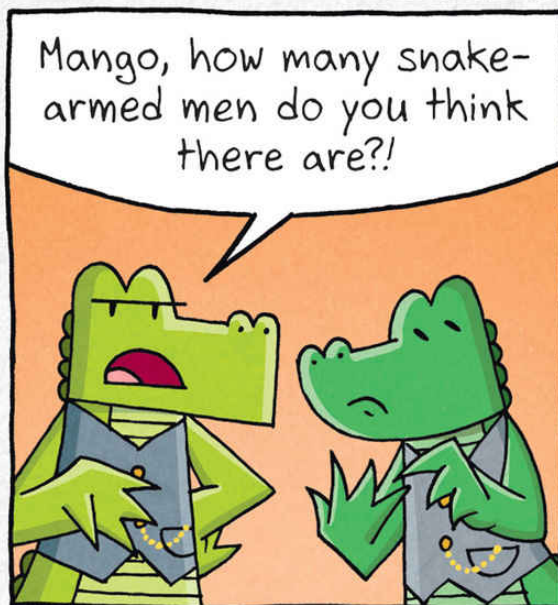
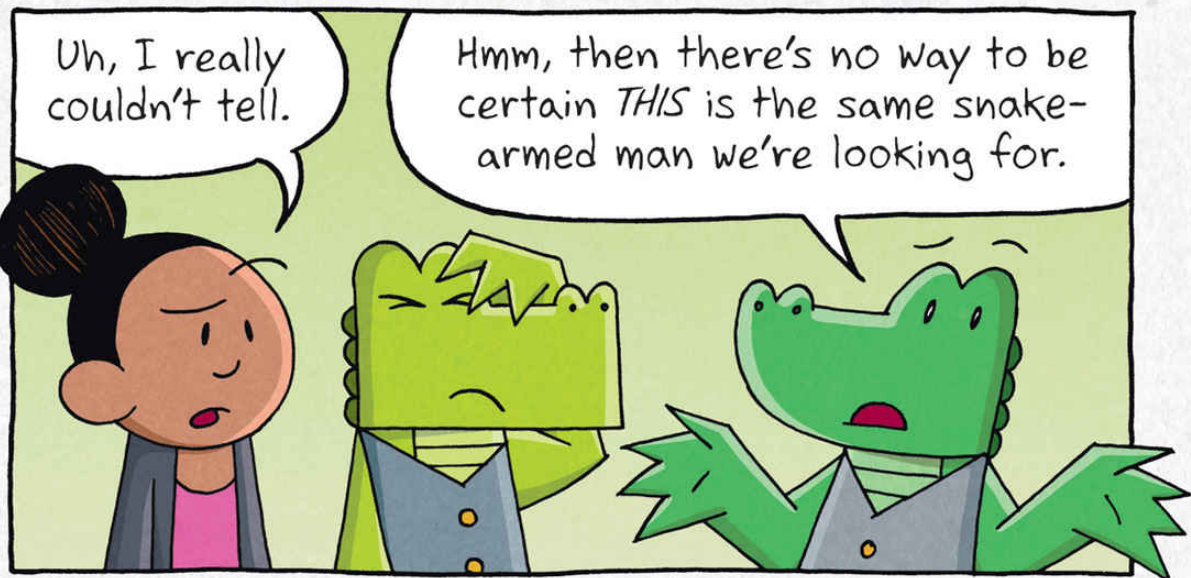
HA HA! Speaking of criminals, is there anything else you can remember about this guy in the trench coat? You know, for, uh, investment banking purposes?

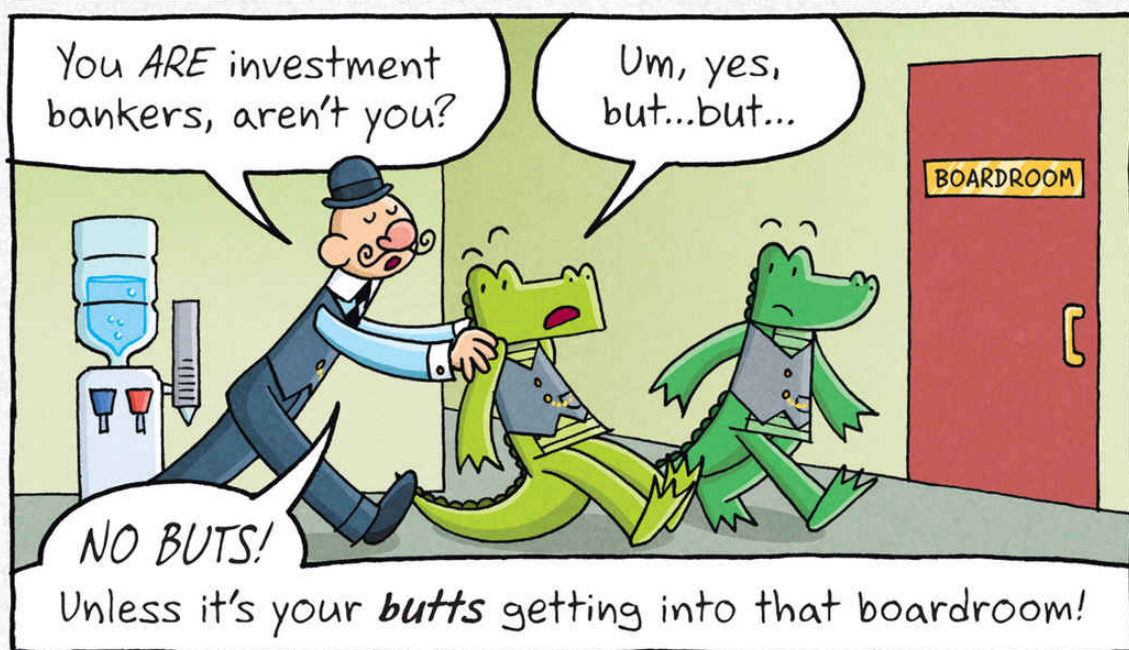
Yeah, before the funny one brought up dinosaurs, I was going to say that he had a *snake* for an arm.



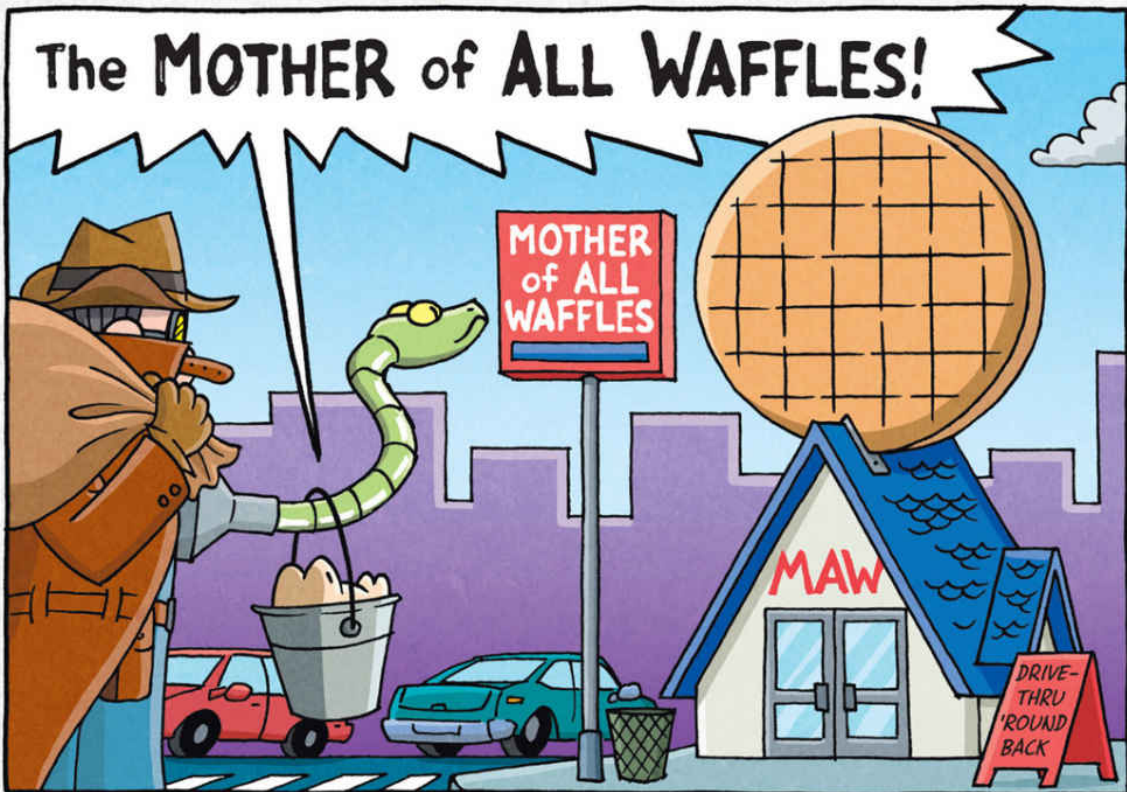
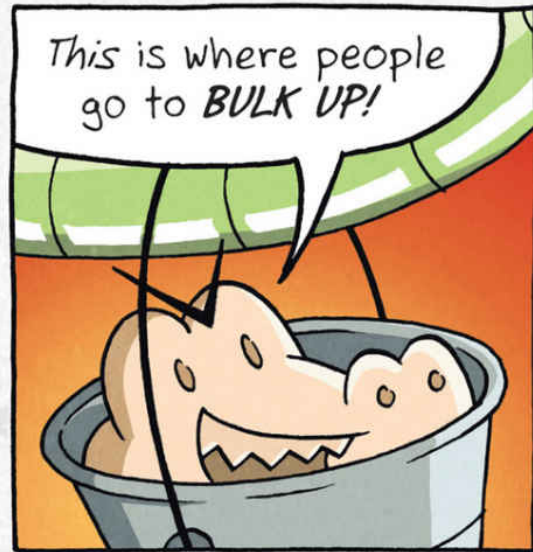
THE SNAKE-ARMED MAN!

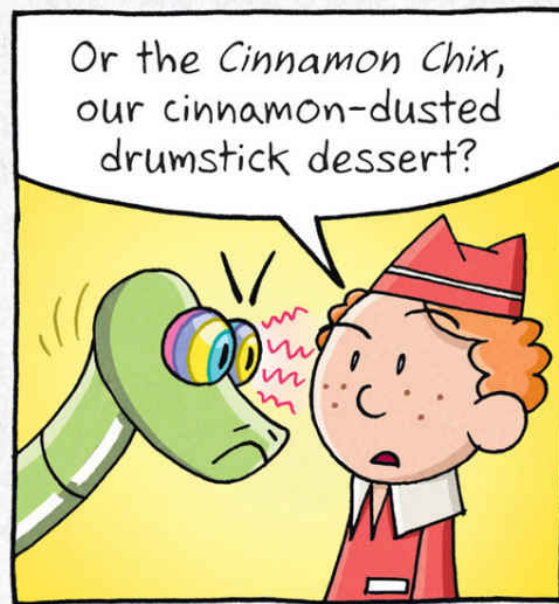
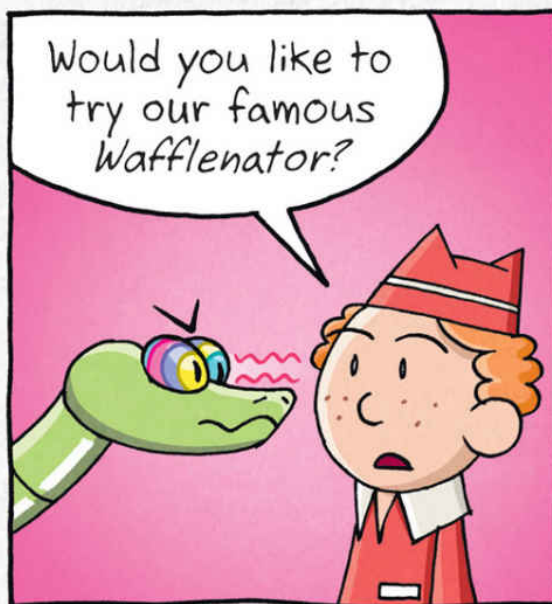
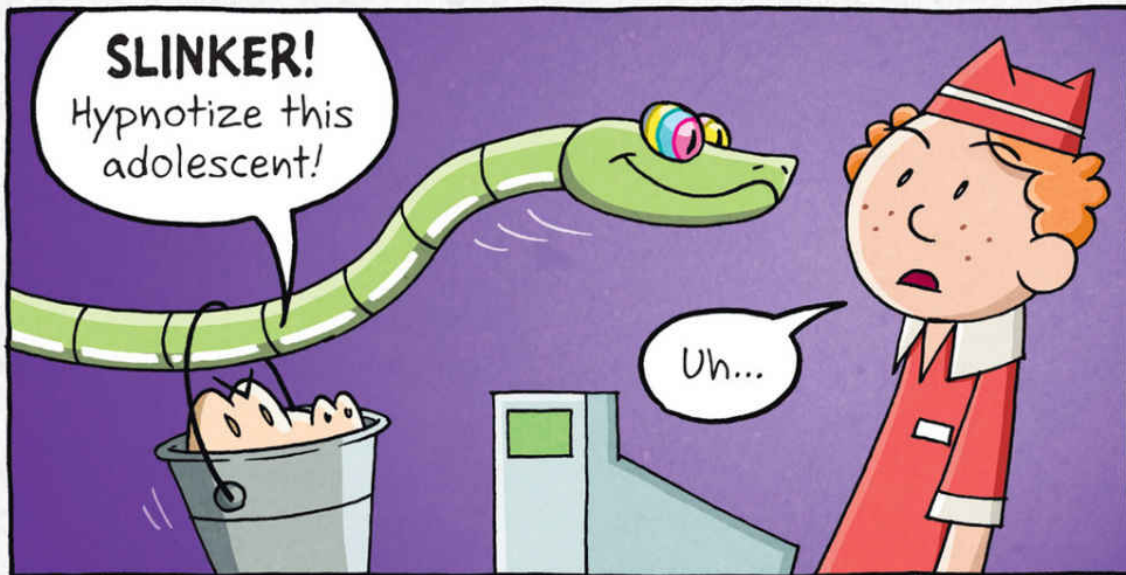
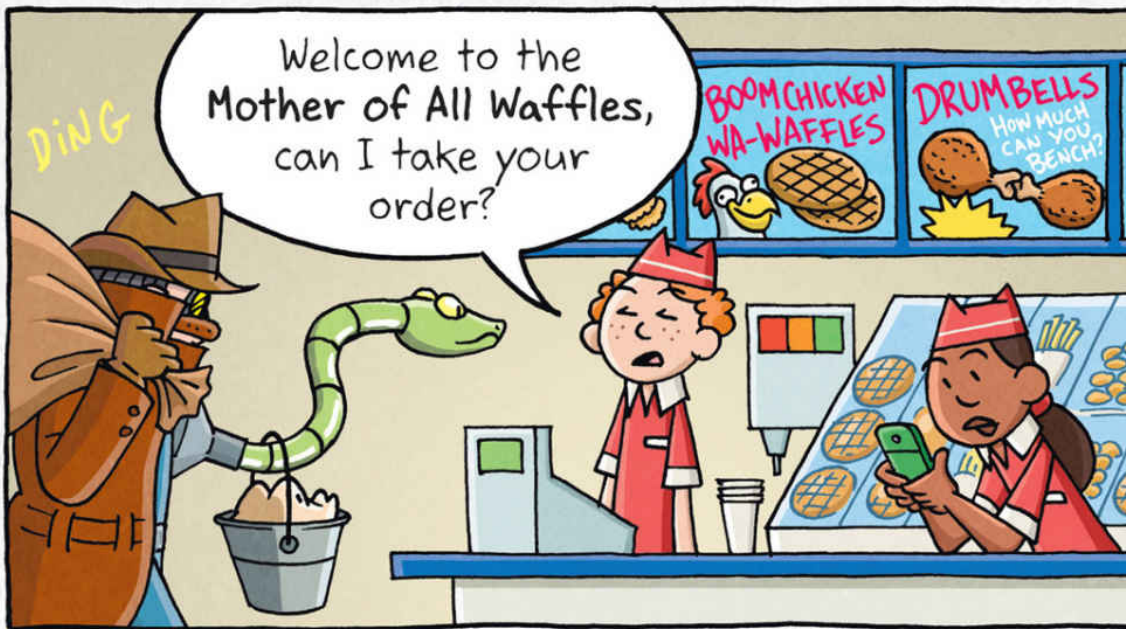


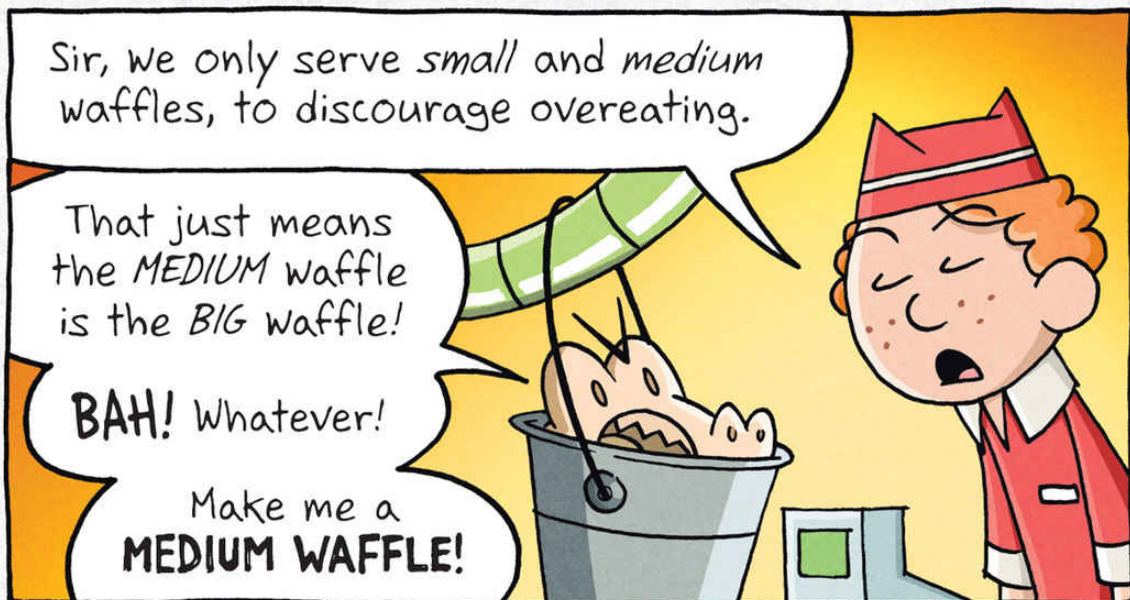
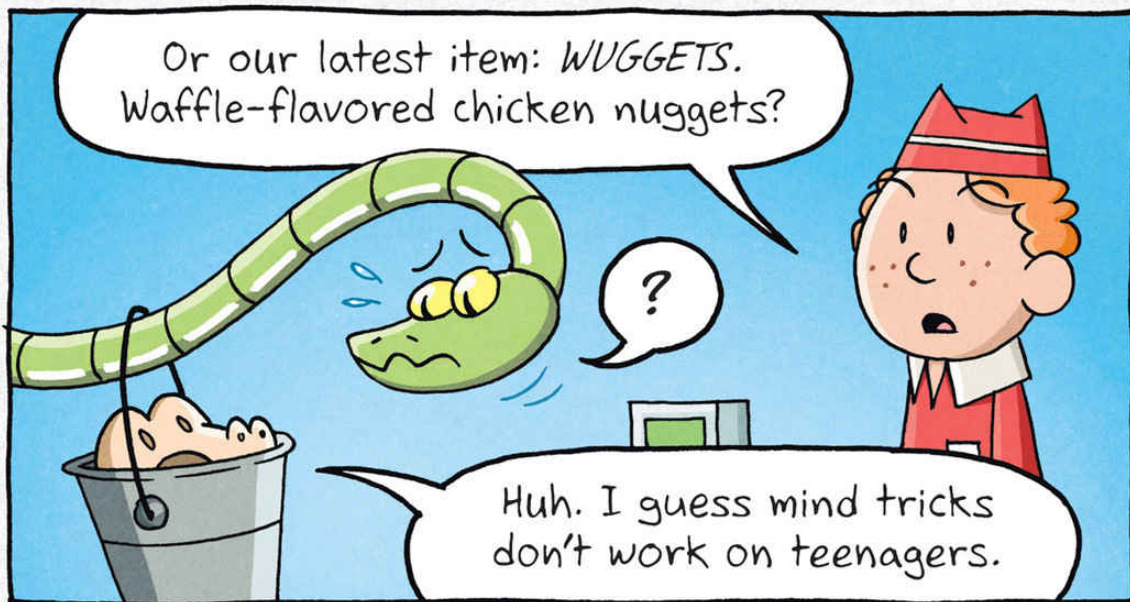


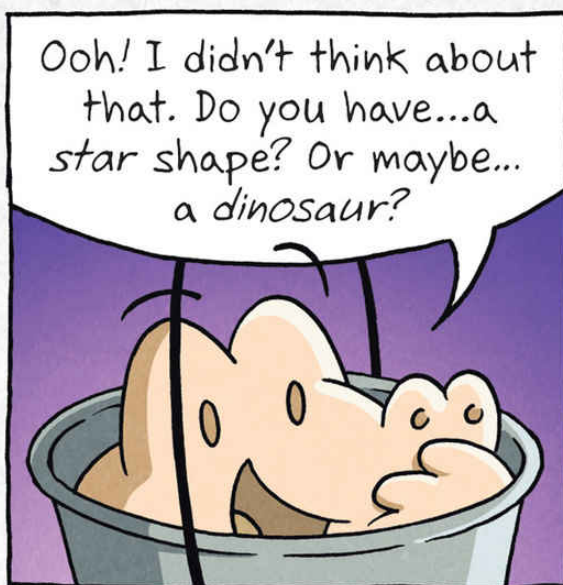
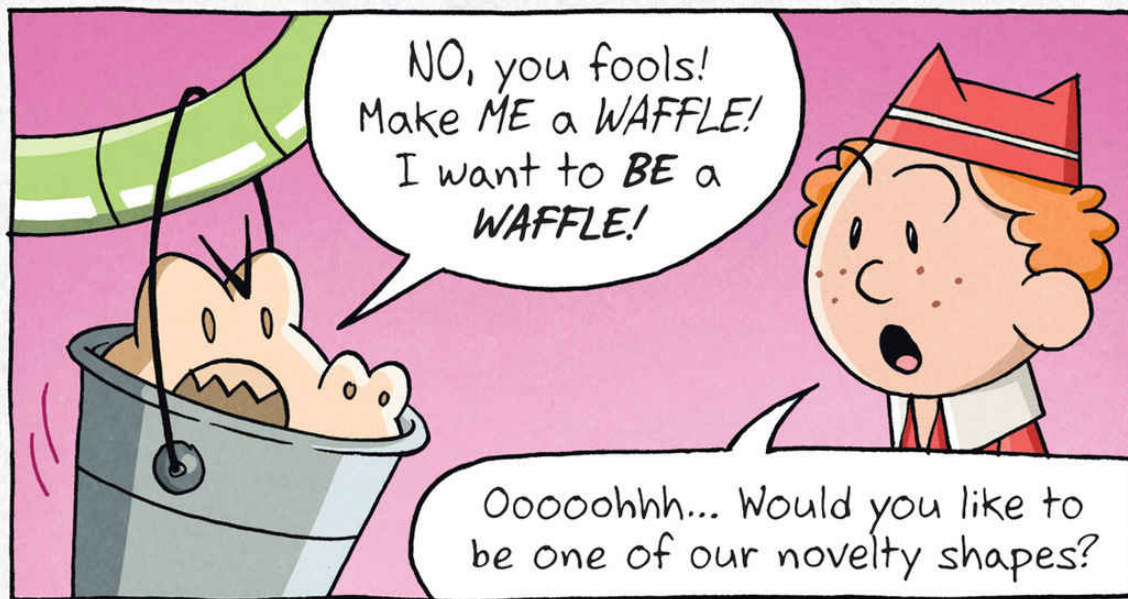
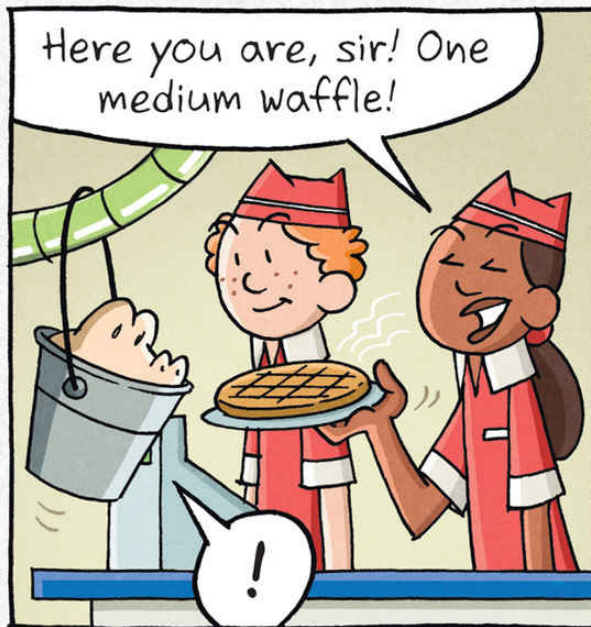


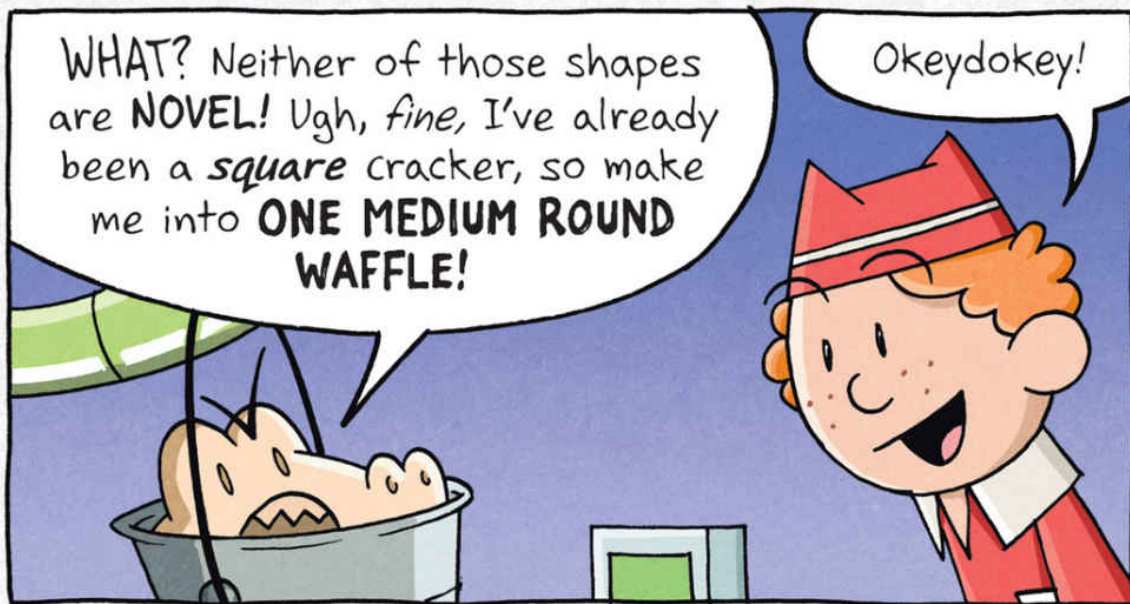
Chapter 10

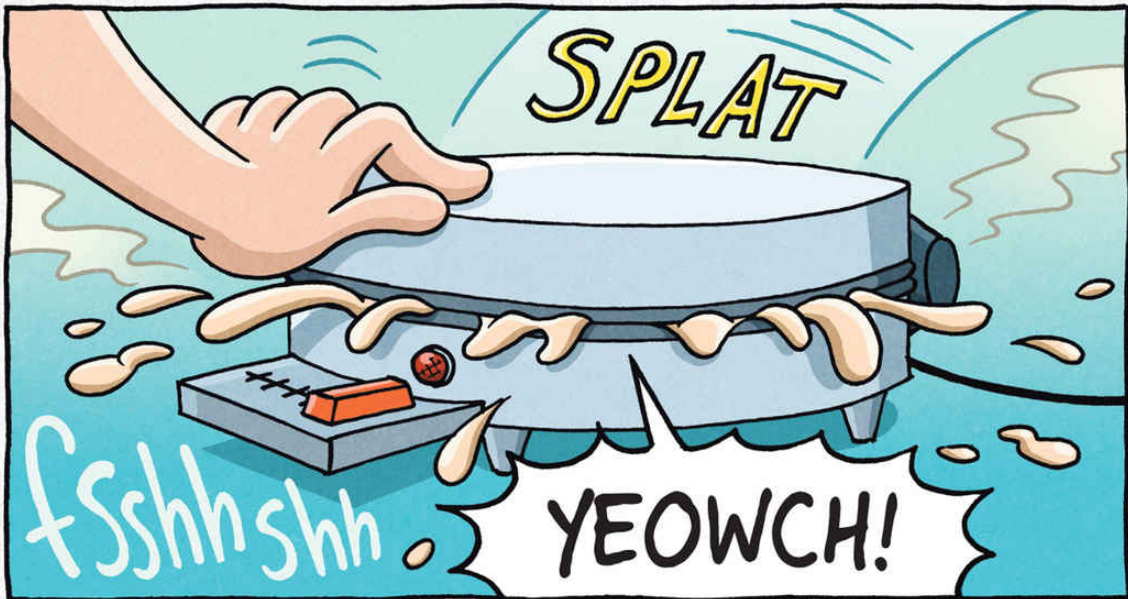
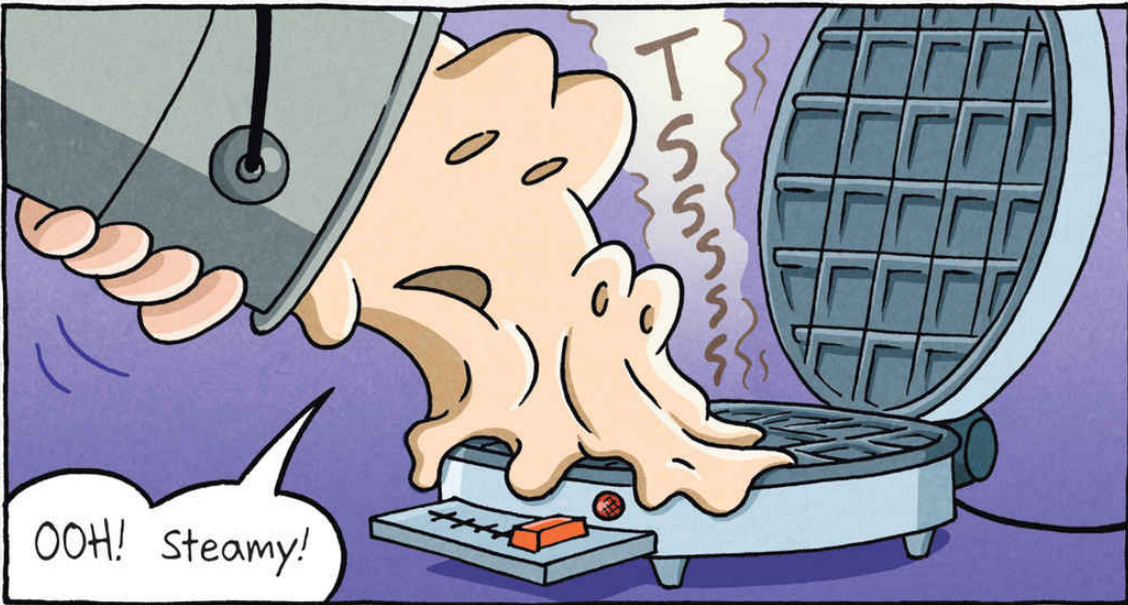


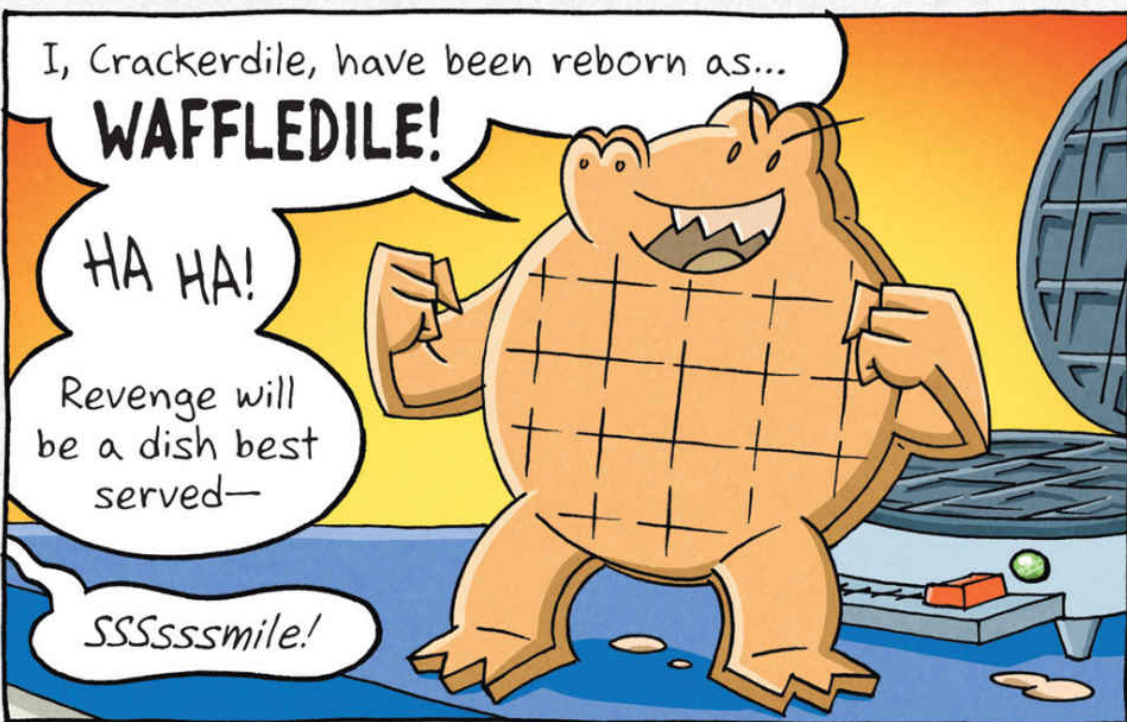
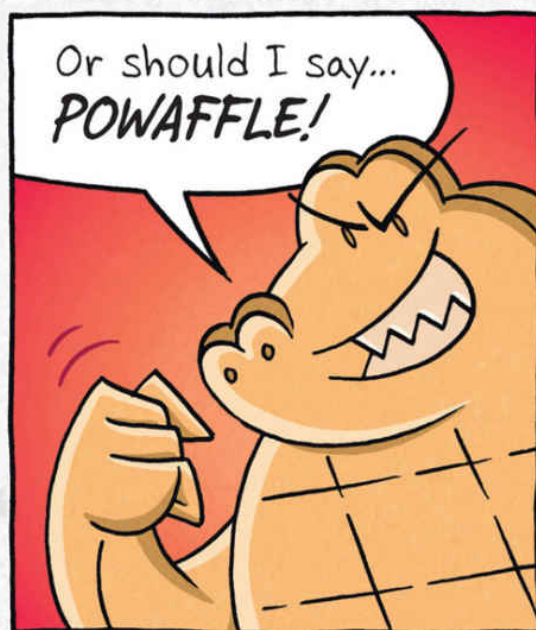










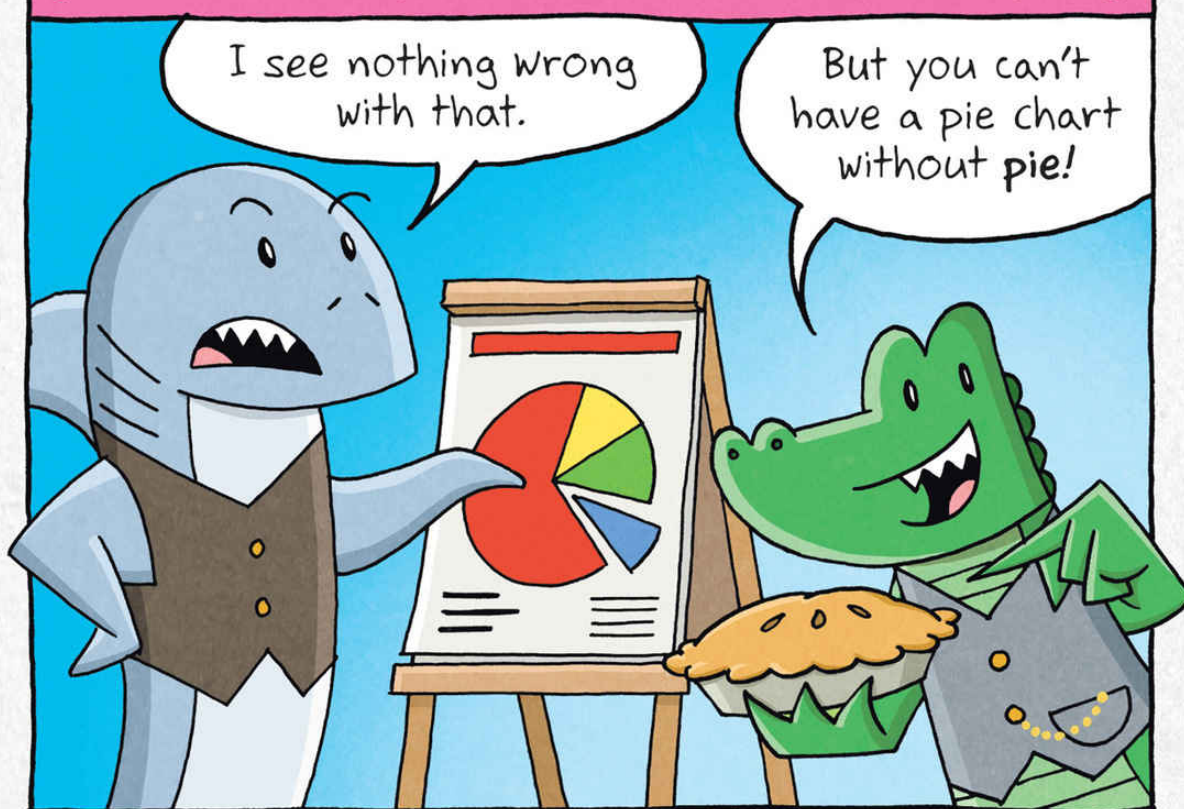




Chapter 11



♪ Bankers really like to make charts of money! ♪



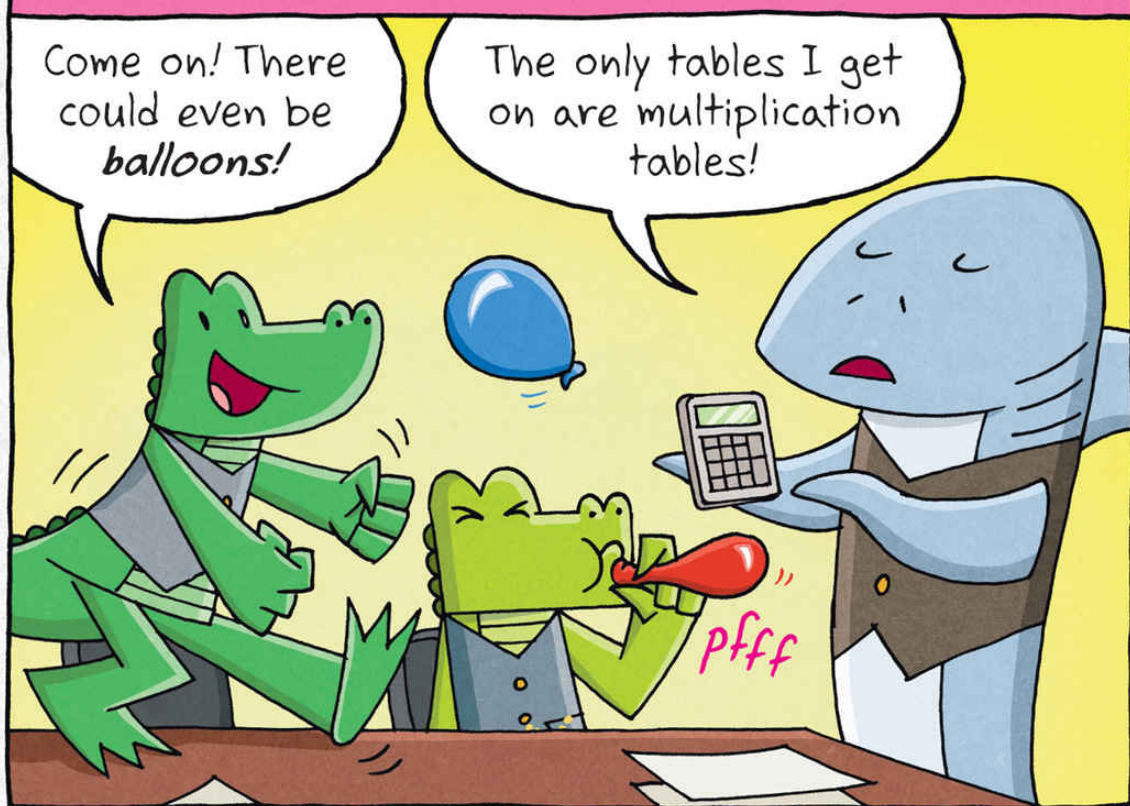
♪ Terrible coffee makes their farts smell funny! ♪



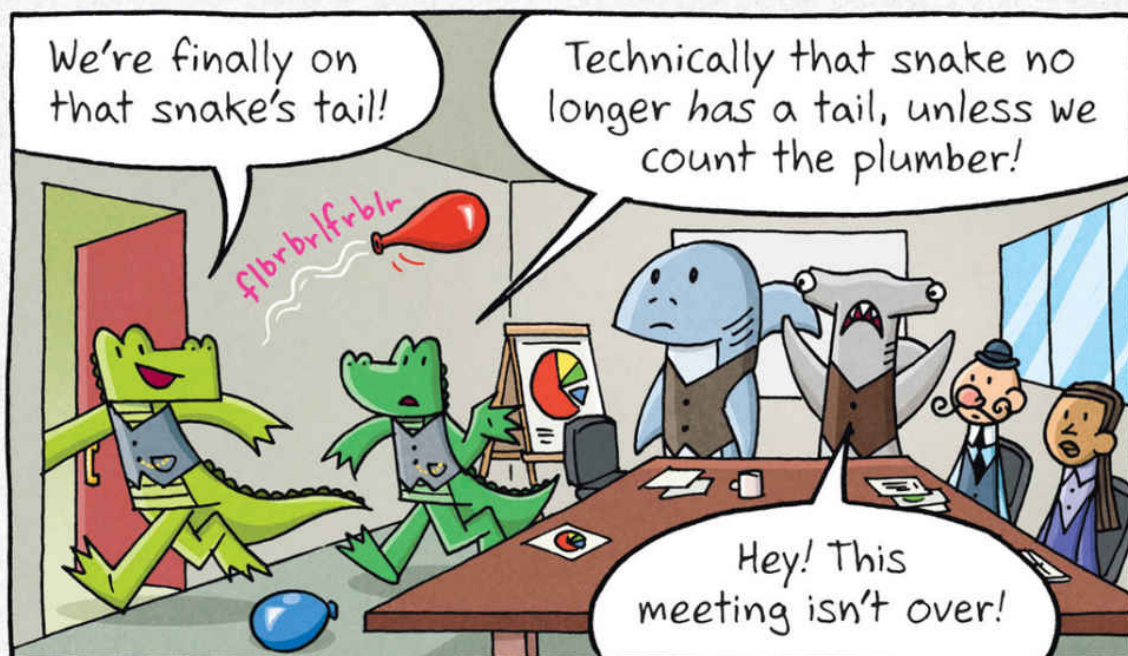
♪♪ There's nothing duller than talking finance! ♪♪



♪♪ So instead get up on the table and dance! ♪♪



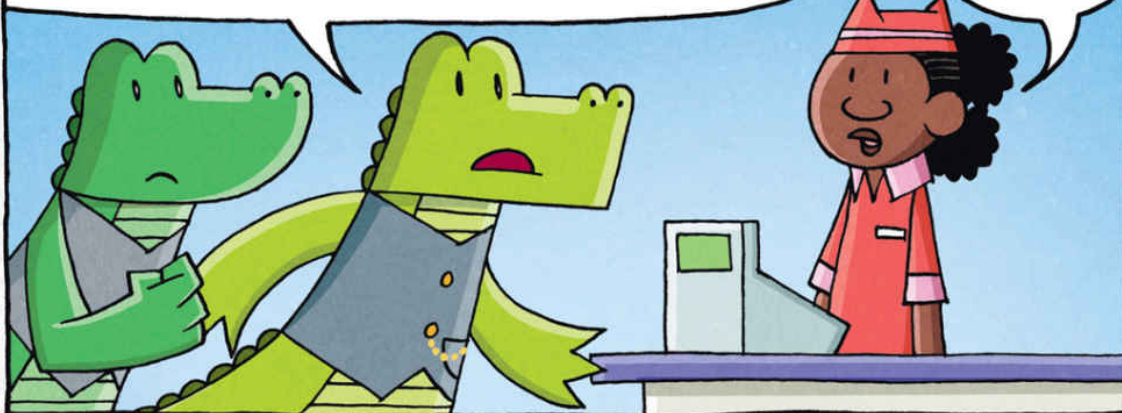




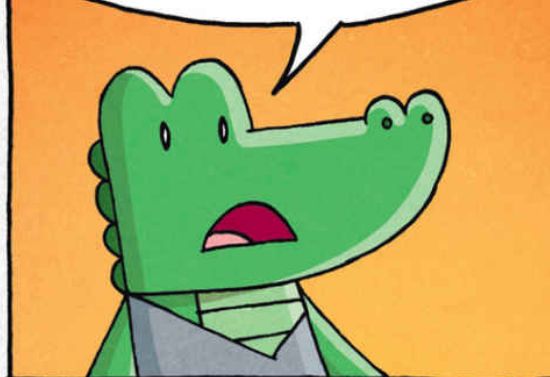
Moments later, a few blocks away from the bank...

We heard about the snake-armed man demanding waffles! Where is he?

This is MAD.



Yeah, it sounds pretty wild, right?



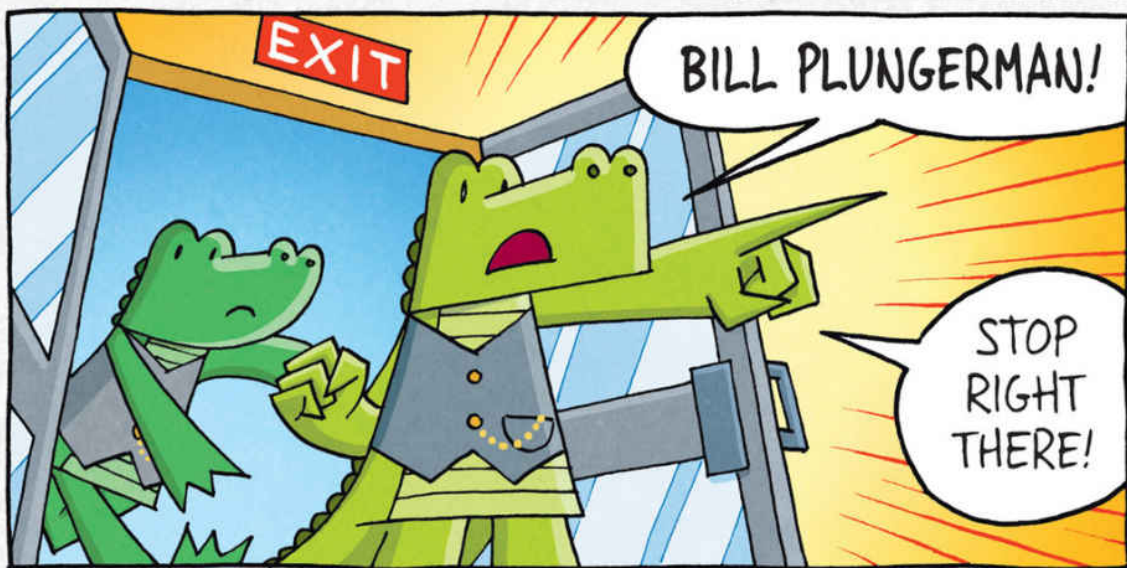
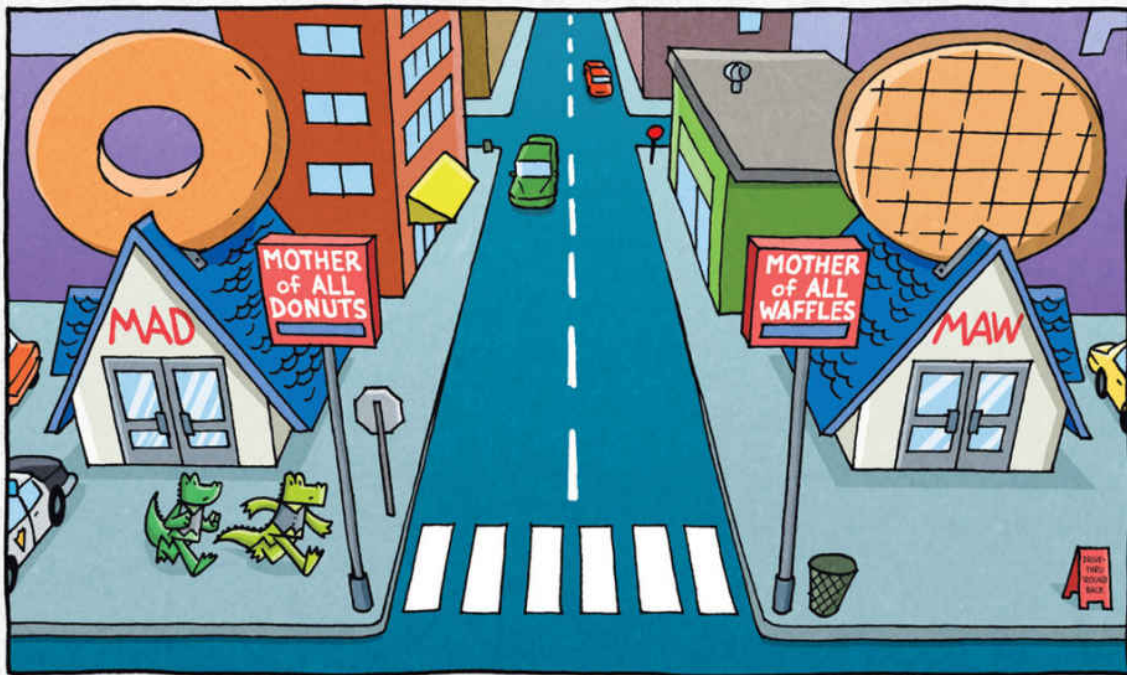
No, sir, *THIS* is **MAD**.
Mother of All **DONUTS**.



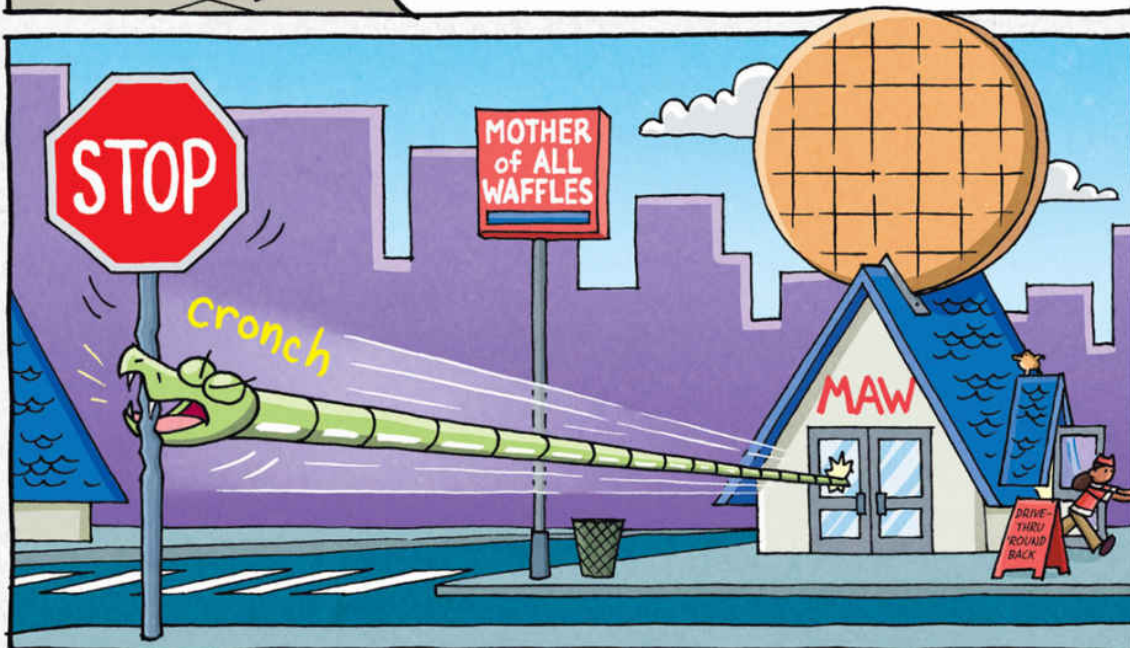
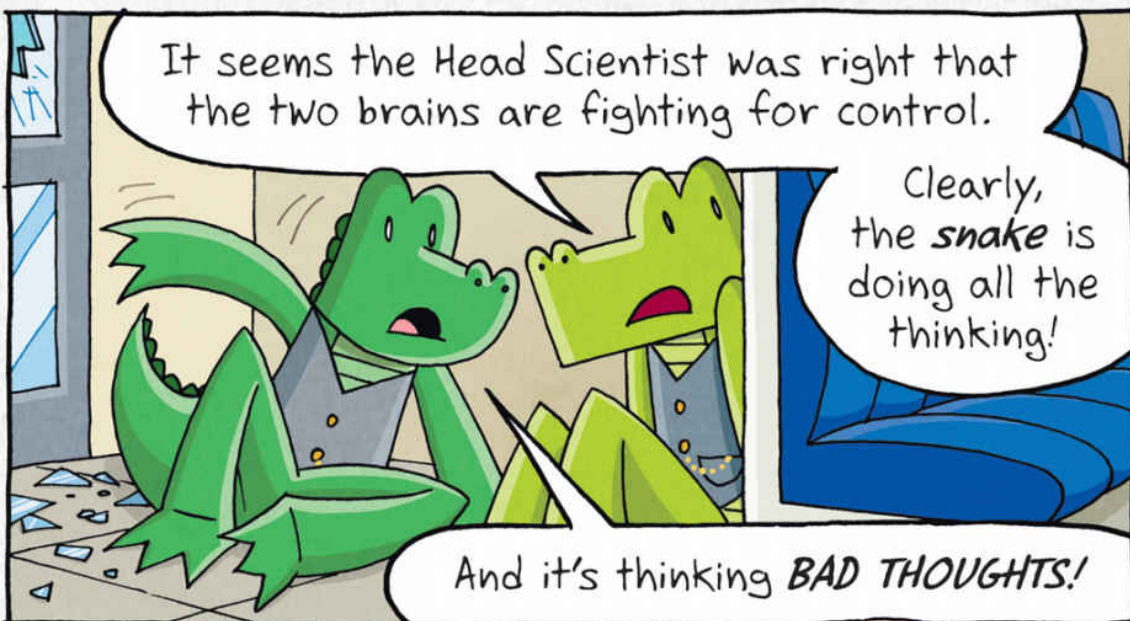
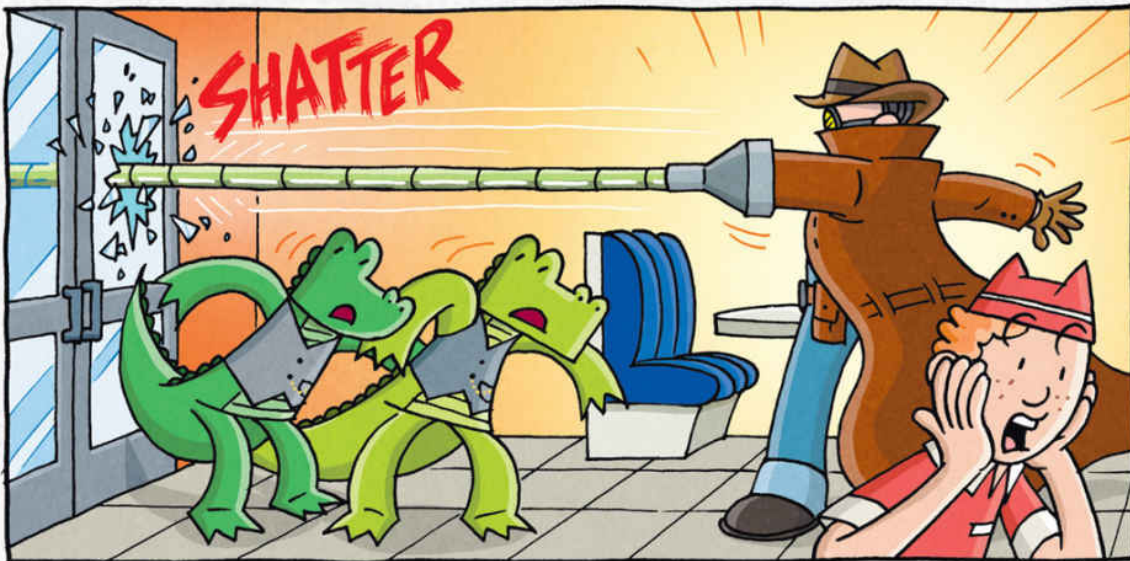
You want the **MAW**,
Mother of All **WAFFLES**,
across the street.

Oh.



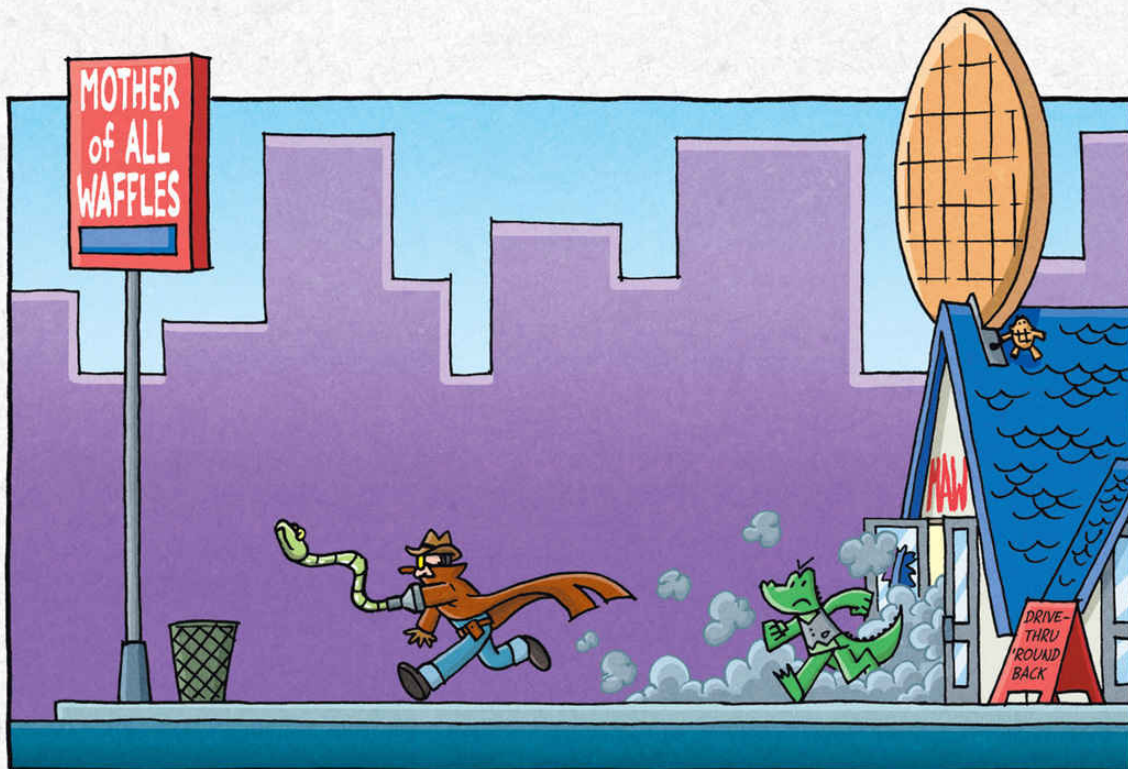


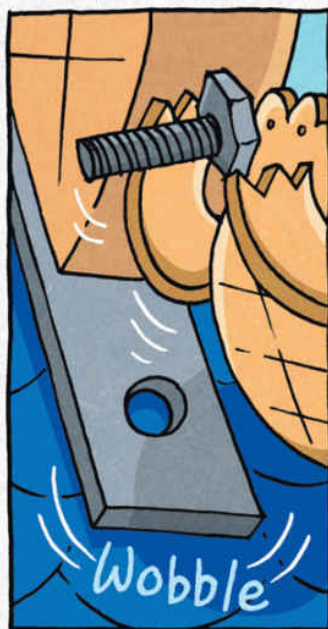
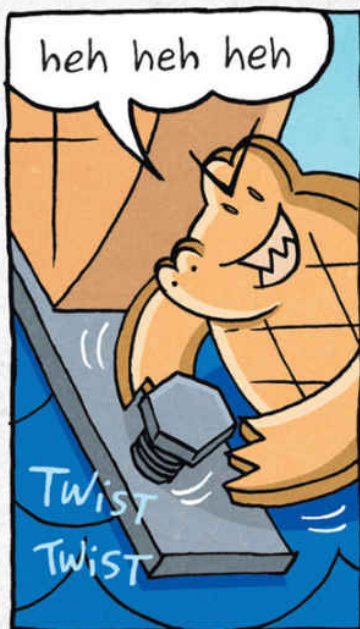


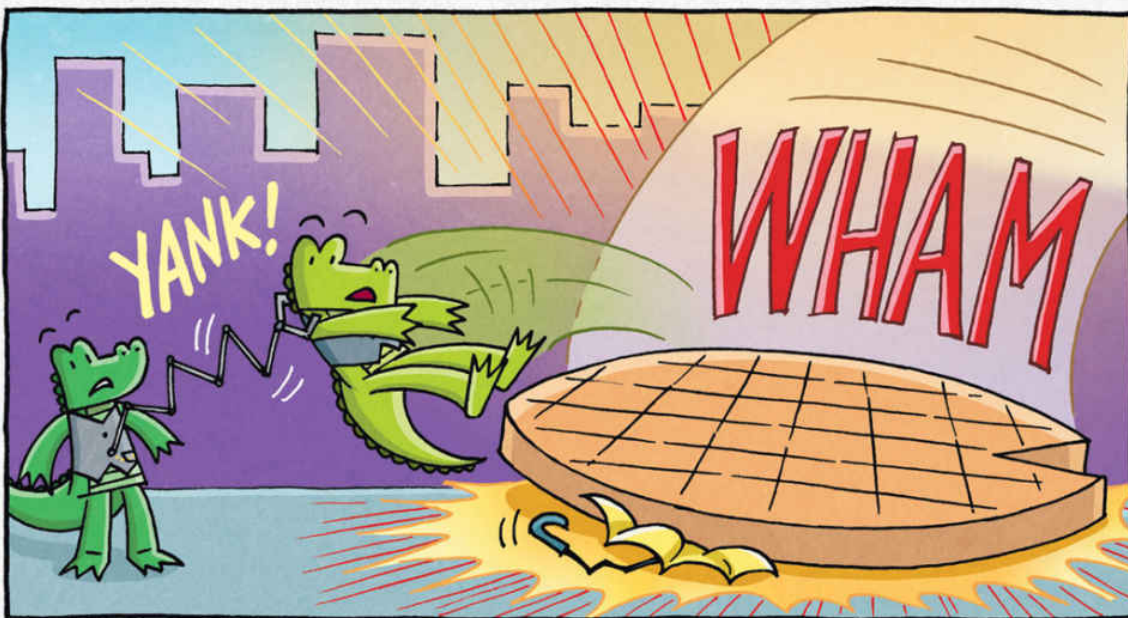
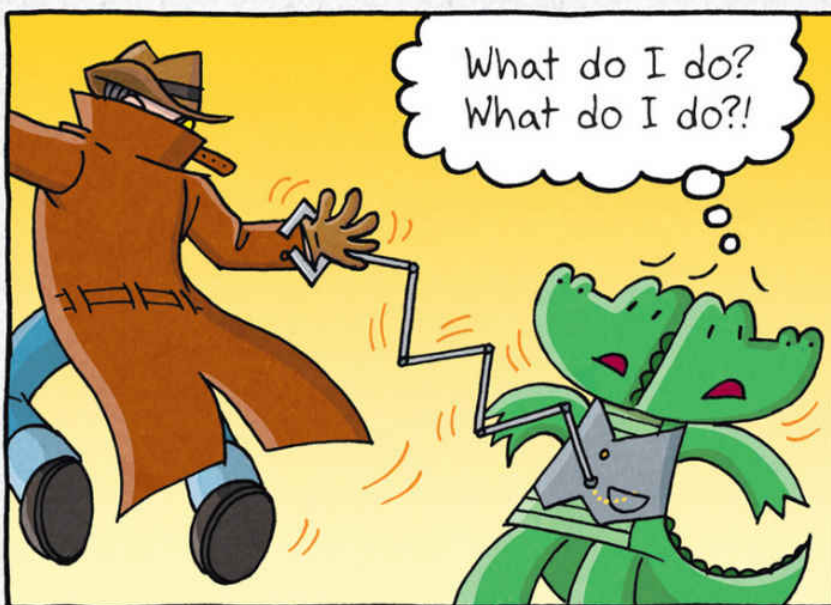


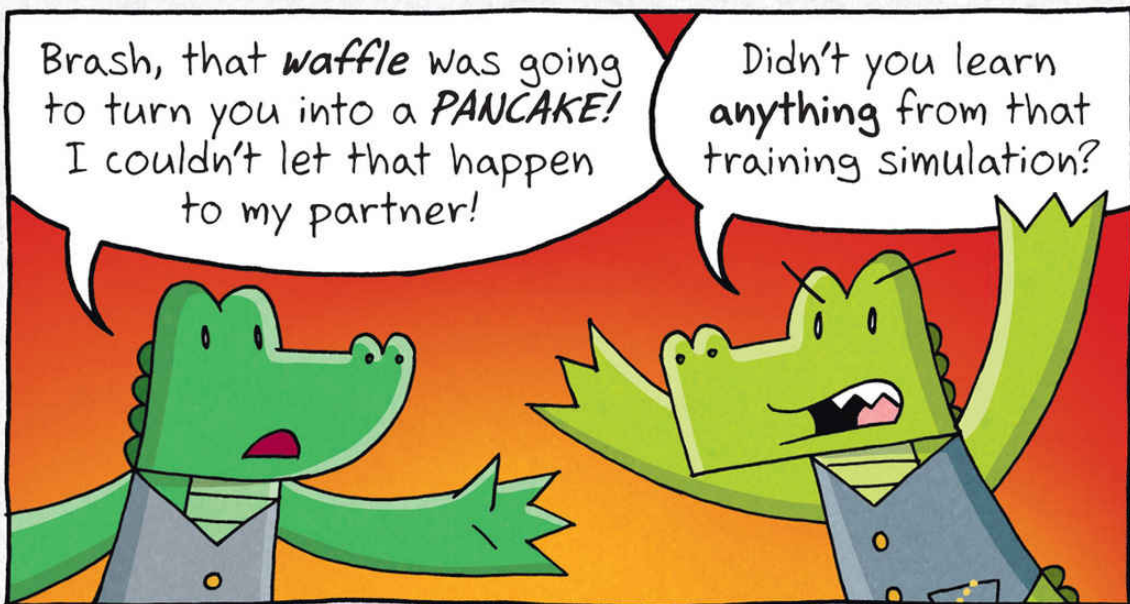


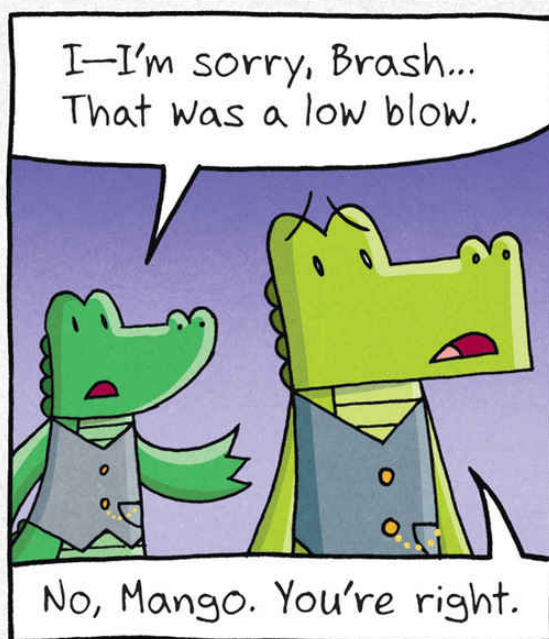
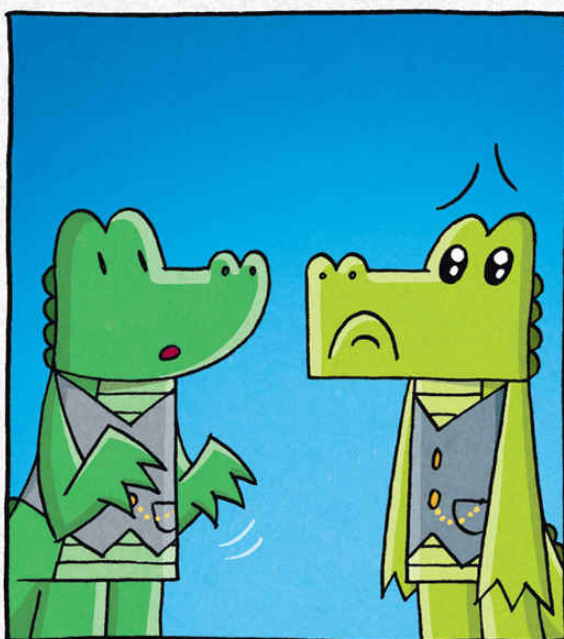
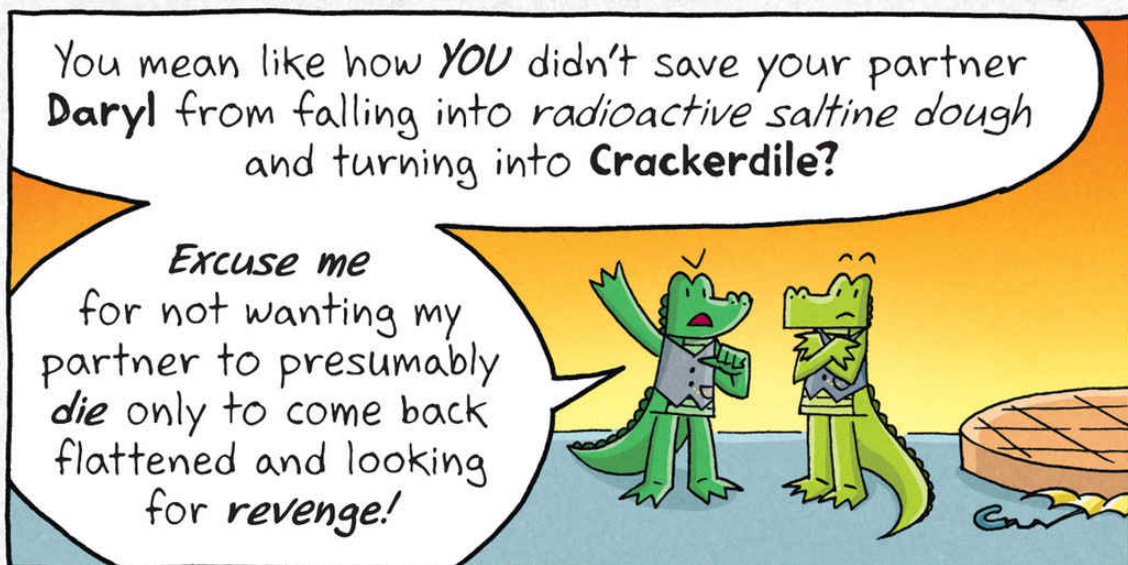








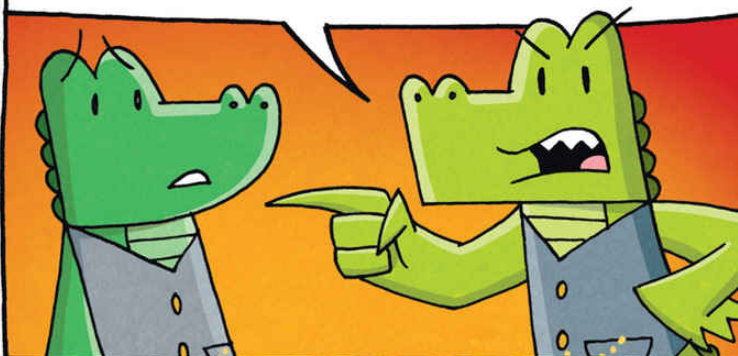




Sometimes looking out for your partner *is* the mission.



After all, I've had to look out for you, since you're always one step away from blowing our cover. *AND* I've had to keep a lookout for Daryl ever since he became evil.



Well... I guess I don't have to look out for *THAT* partner anymore, since he's gone forever.

Brash—



Being a secret agent isn't easy, Mango. I've had to make a lot of tough decisions for the **Greater Good**. You will, too.



I'm going inside to see if the employees can tell me why Hookline and Slinker had such a craving for waffles that they had to rob a bank.



Plus, that giant waffle shouldn't have fallen over. Something's not adding up, and it's my mission to find out what.

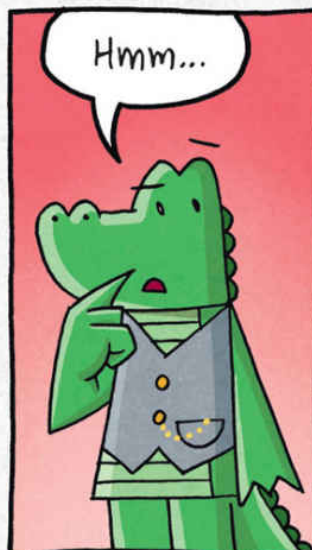


Perhaps you want to think about *your* mission out here for a while.

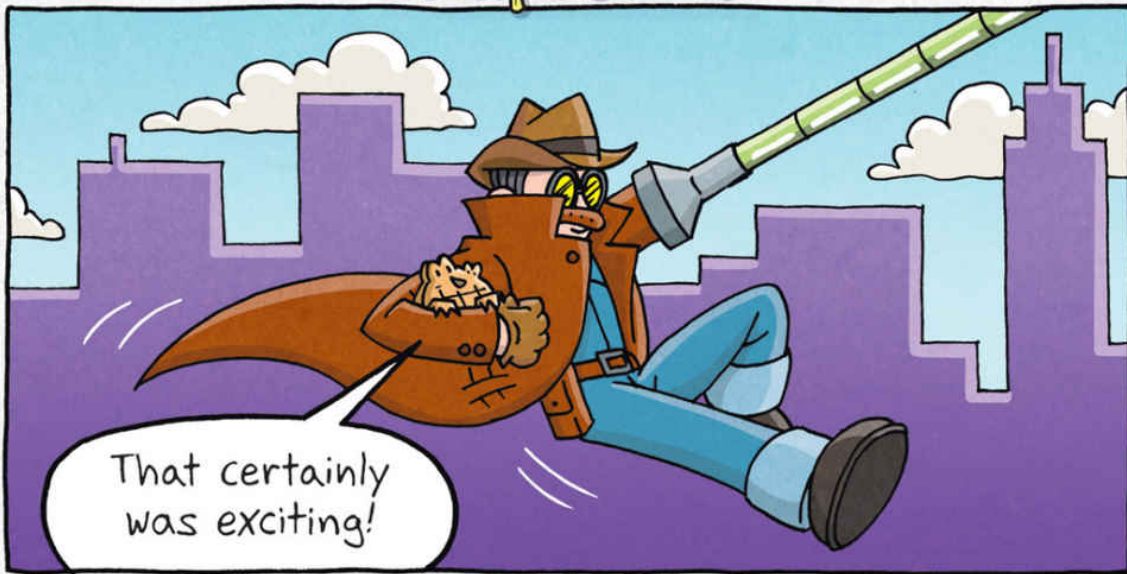


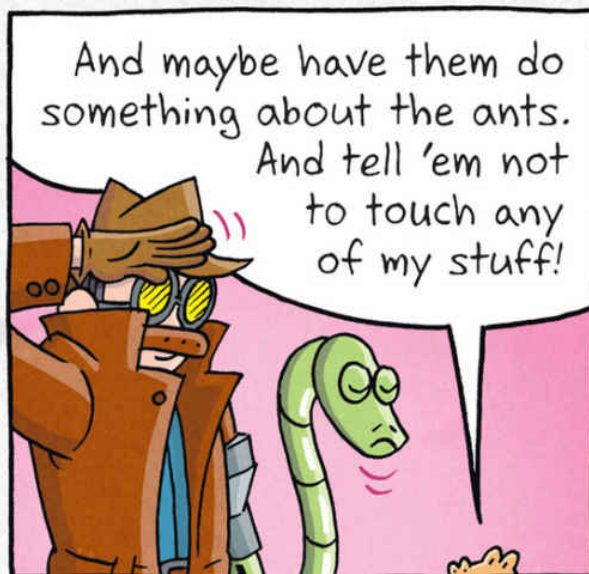
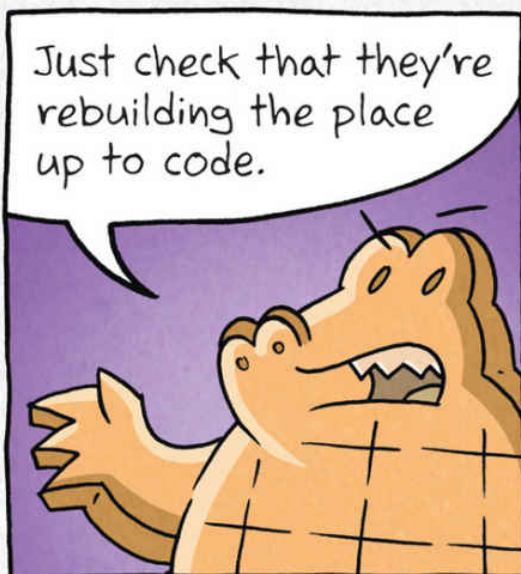
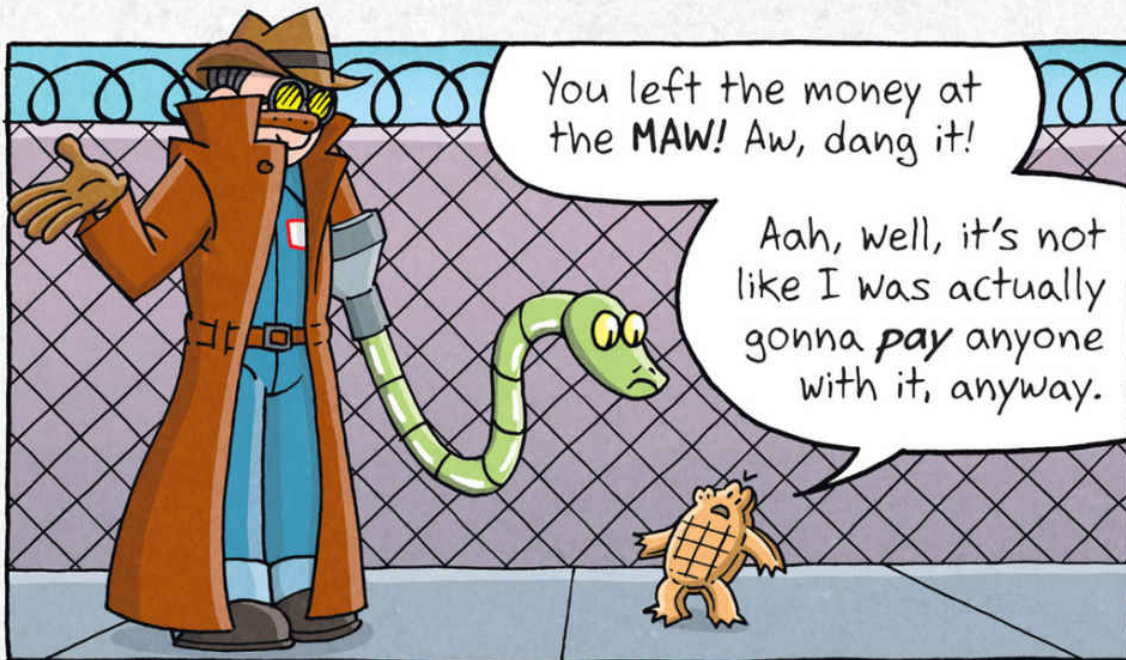
Another hashtag alert....!

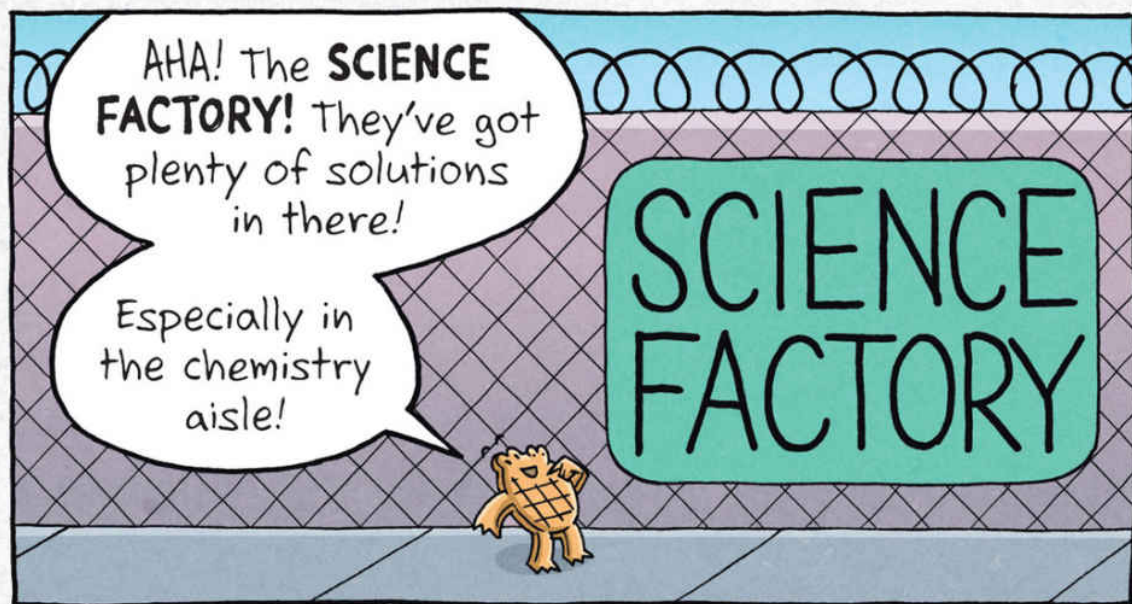
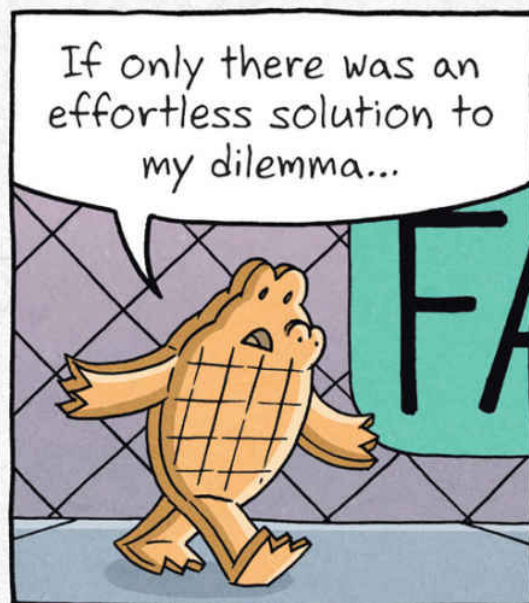
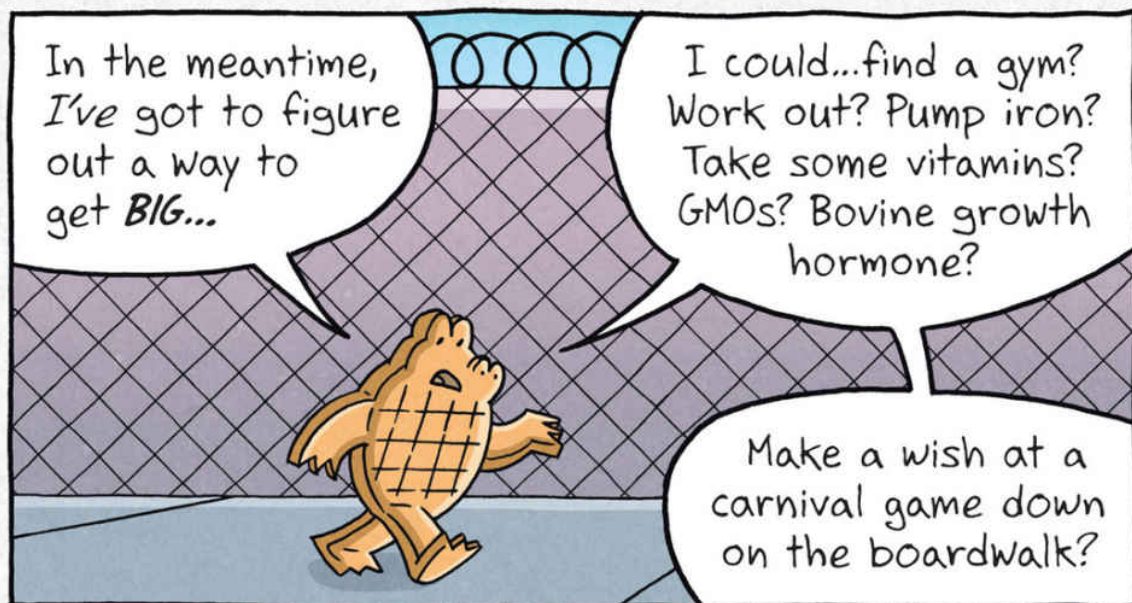


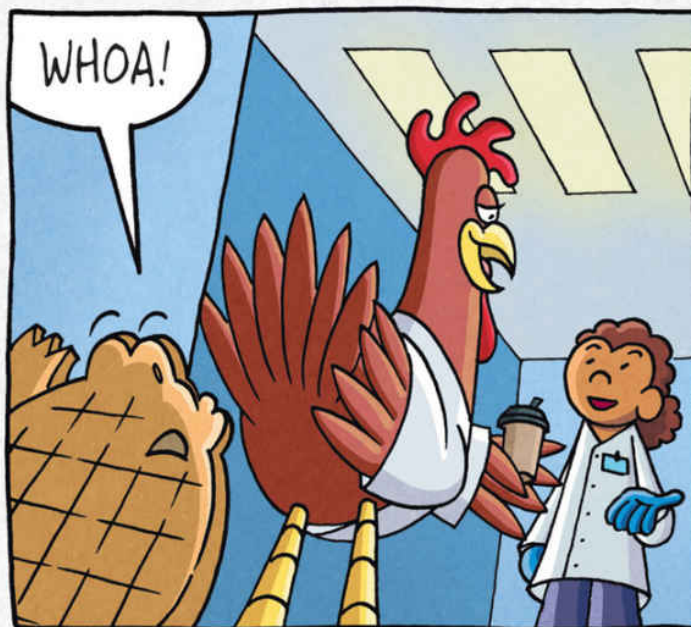


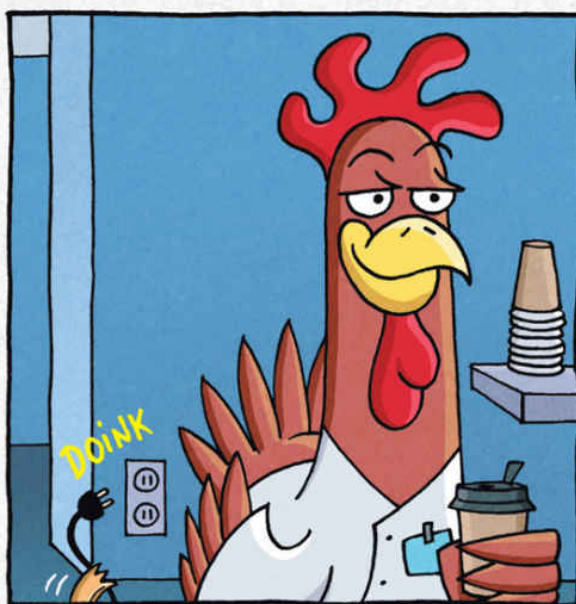
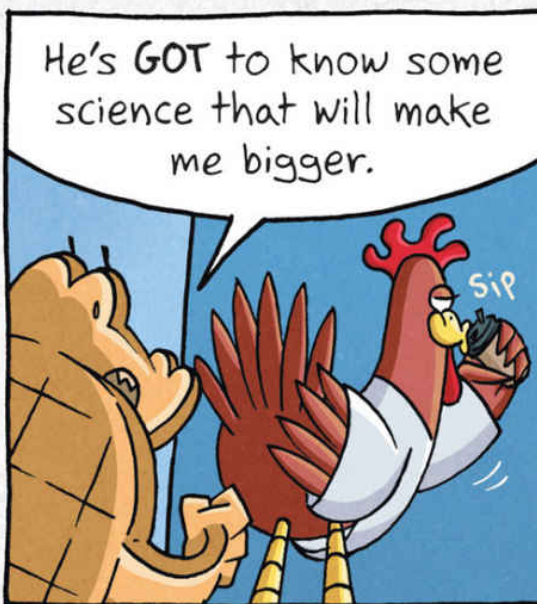
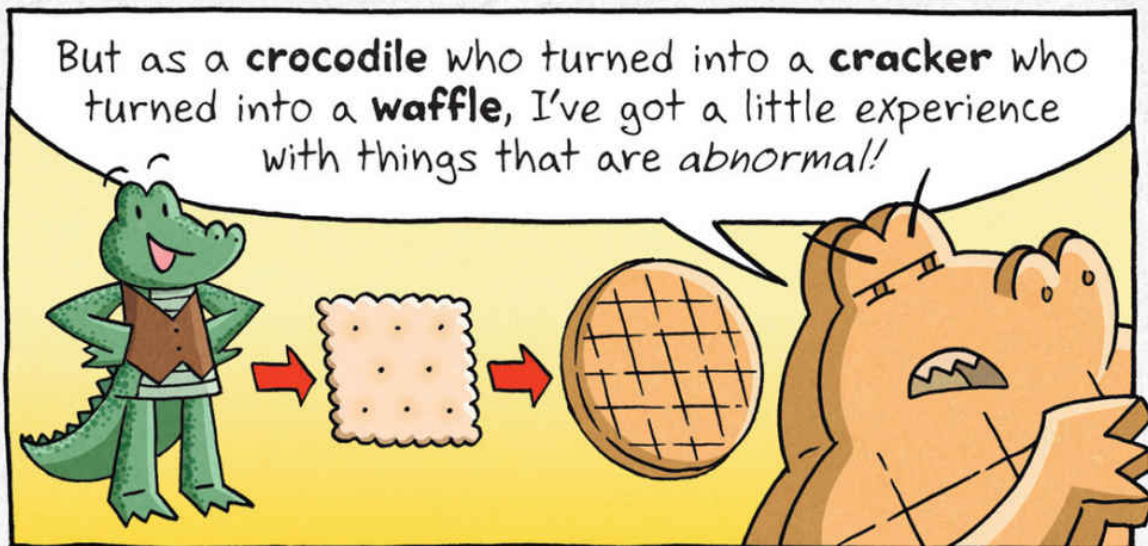
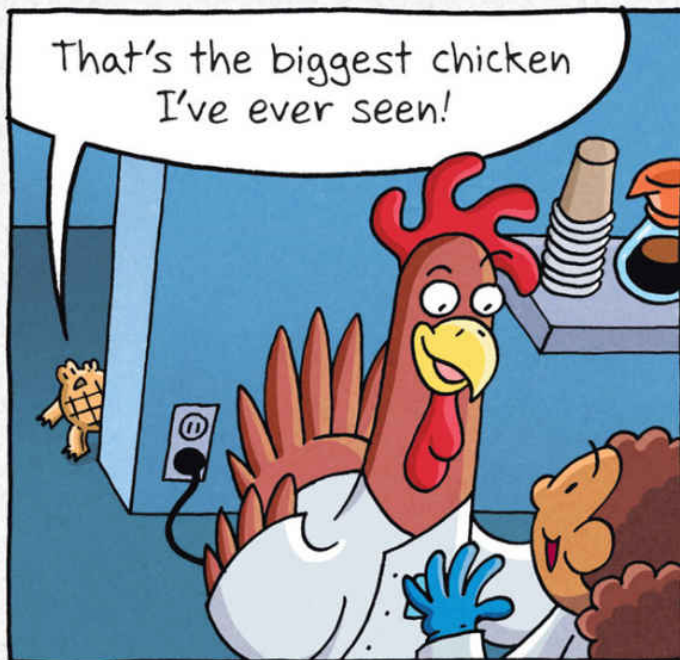
Chapter 12

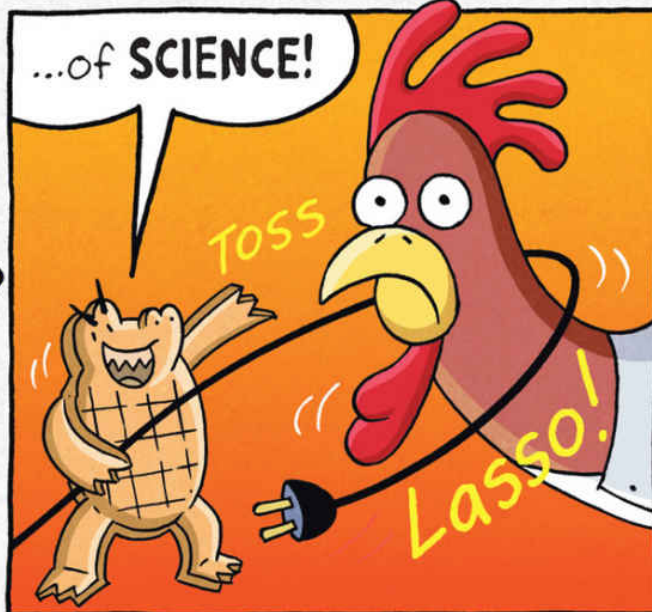
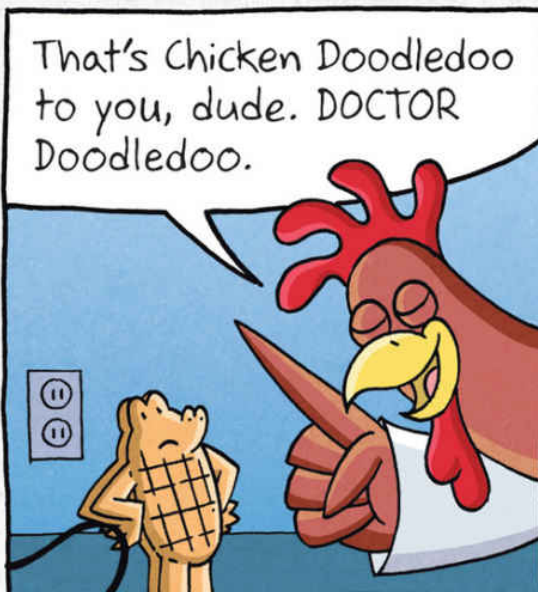
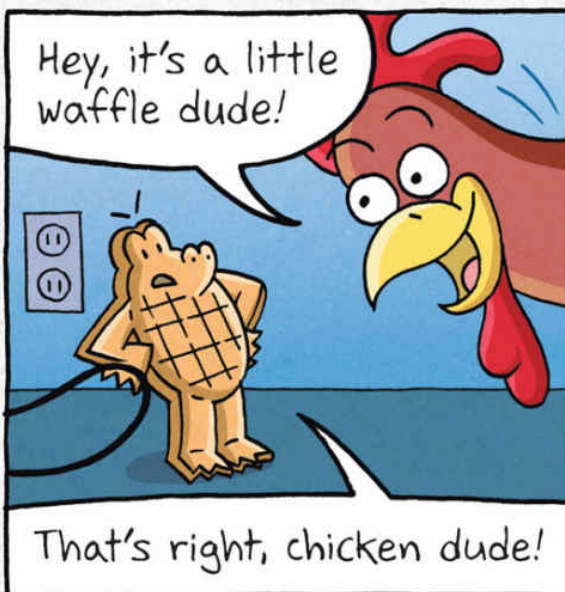
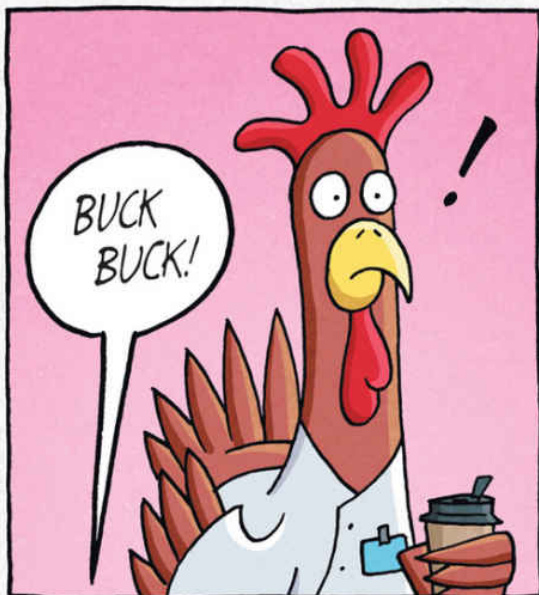


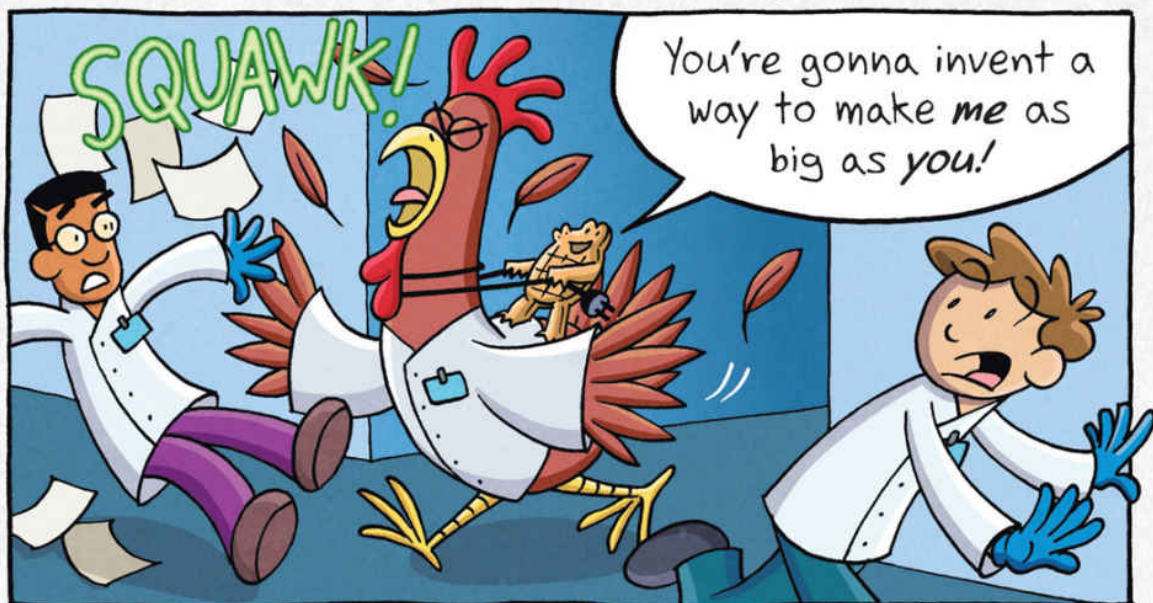
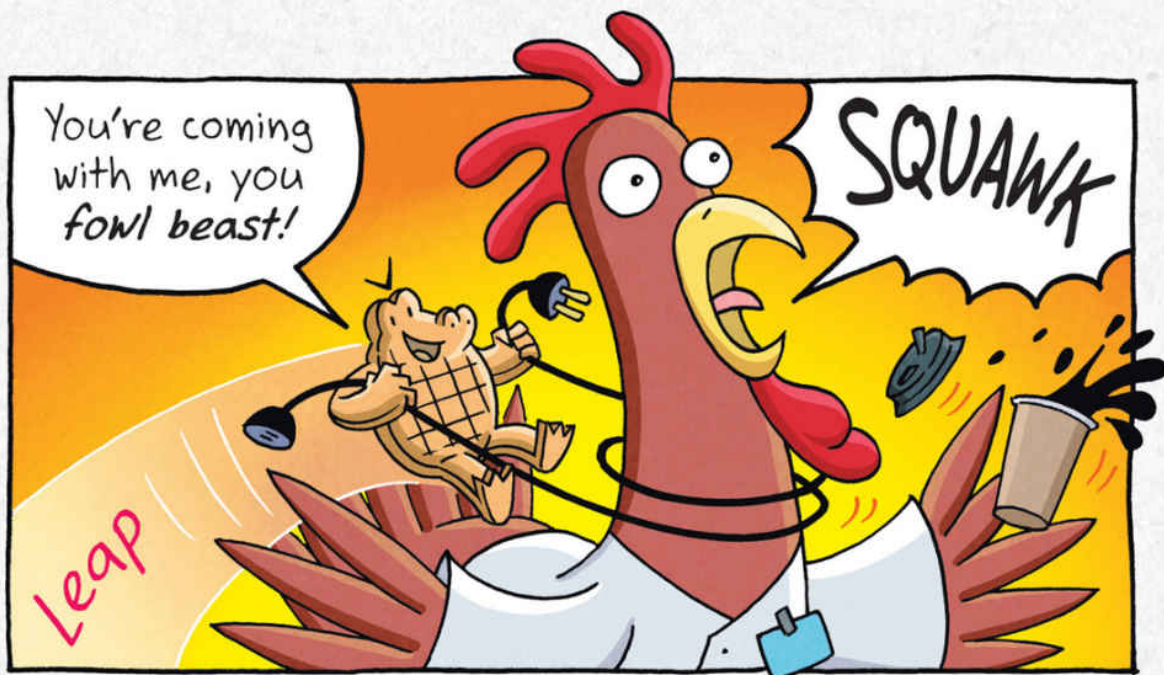


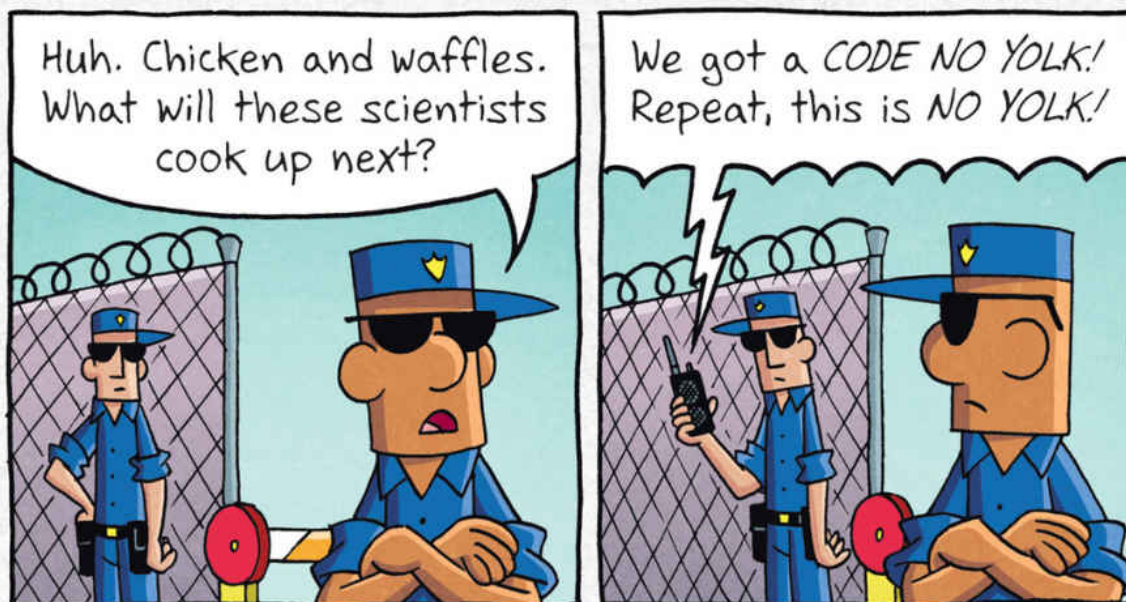






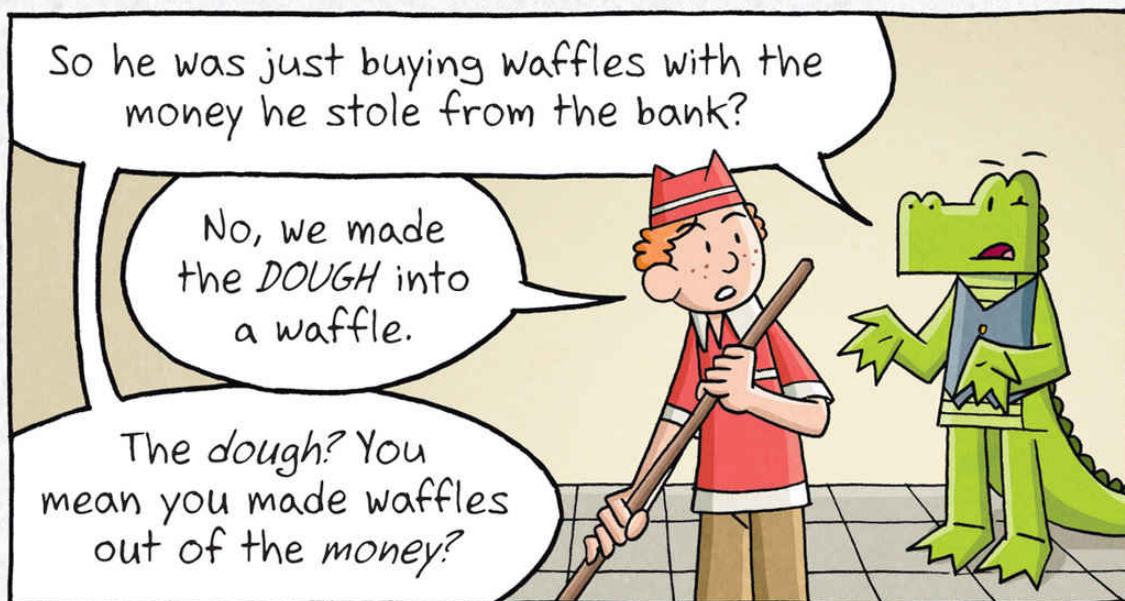


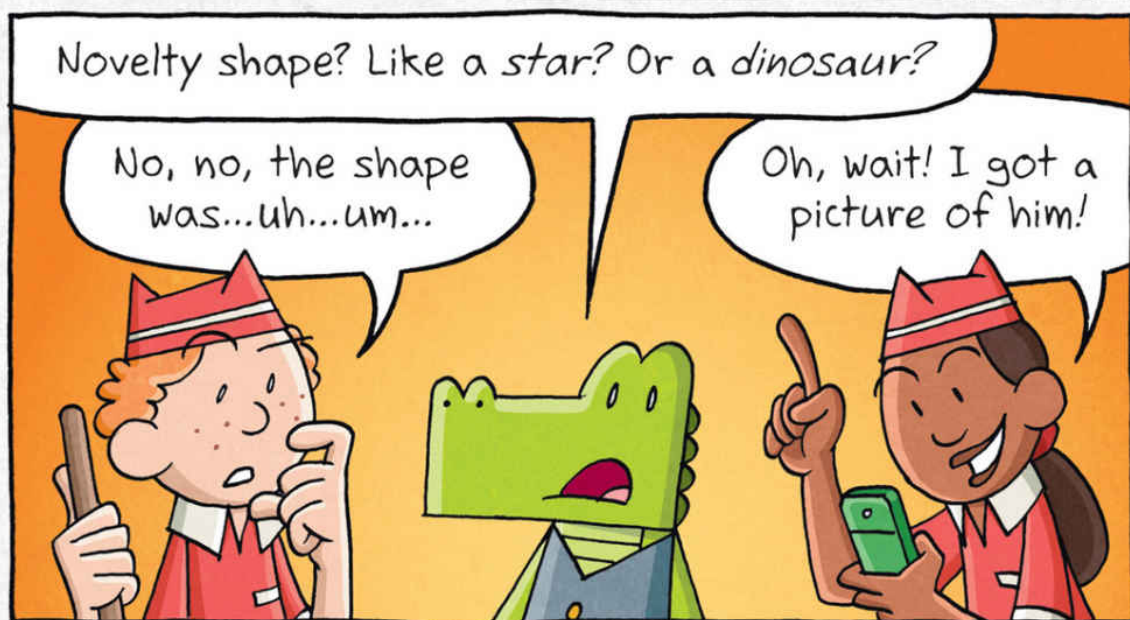


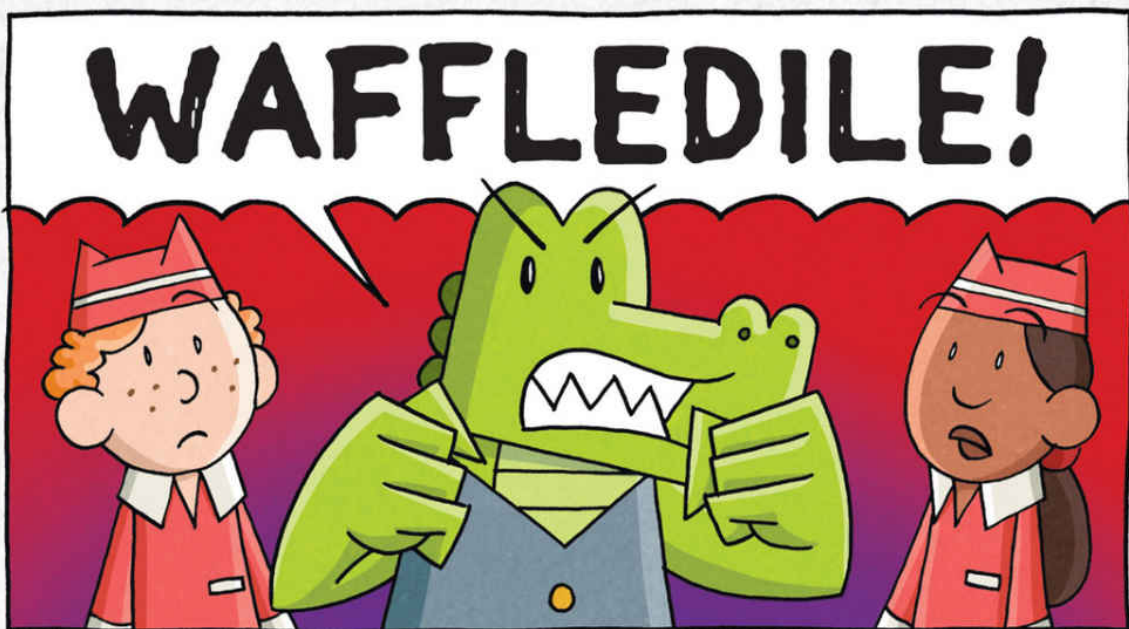
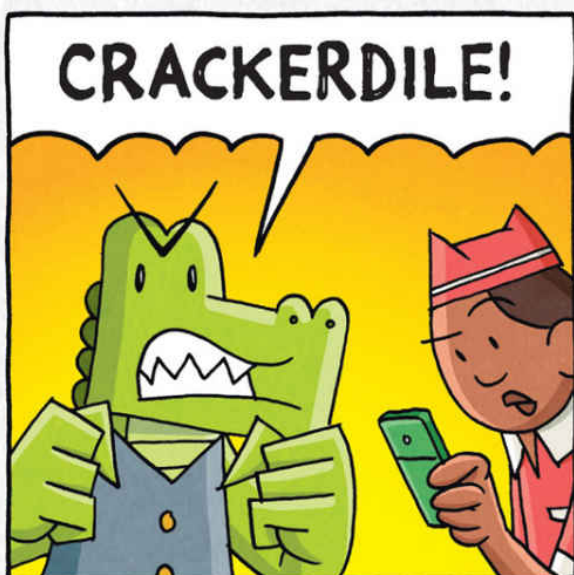


Chapter 13











Hold on... If Hookline and Slinker brought Crackerdile to the MAW to be made into a waffle...then Crackerdile must be the one calling the shots!

HE'S the mastermind behind the bank robbery!



THAT'S what the bank teller meant by "bucket of dough"! How could I be so dense?

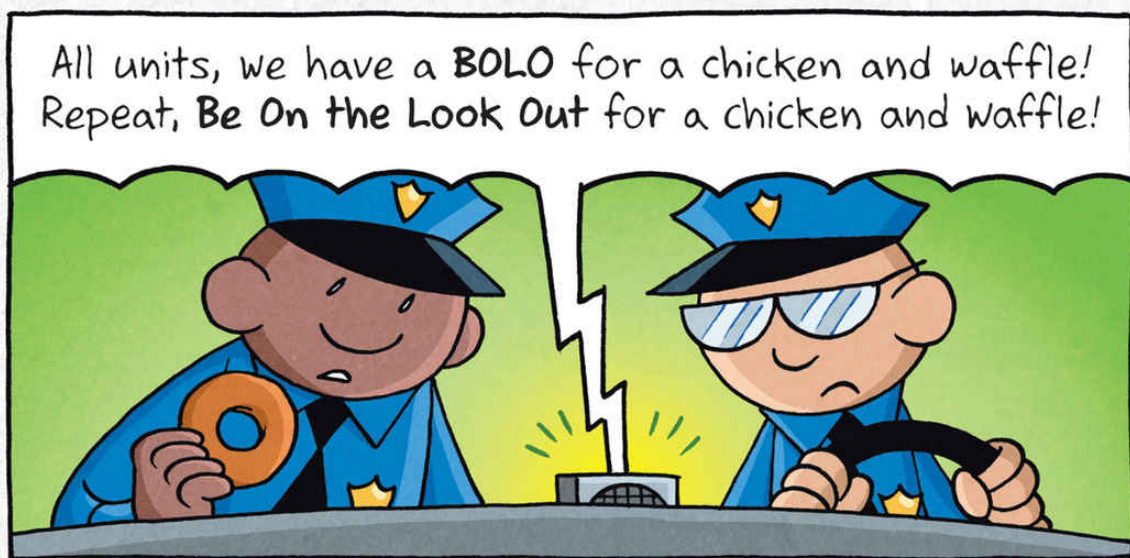


Crackerdile couldn't have needed *ALL* that money to get waffle-ized... So what was it for?

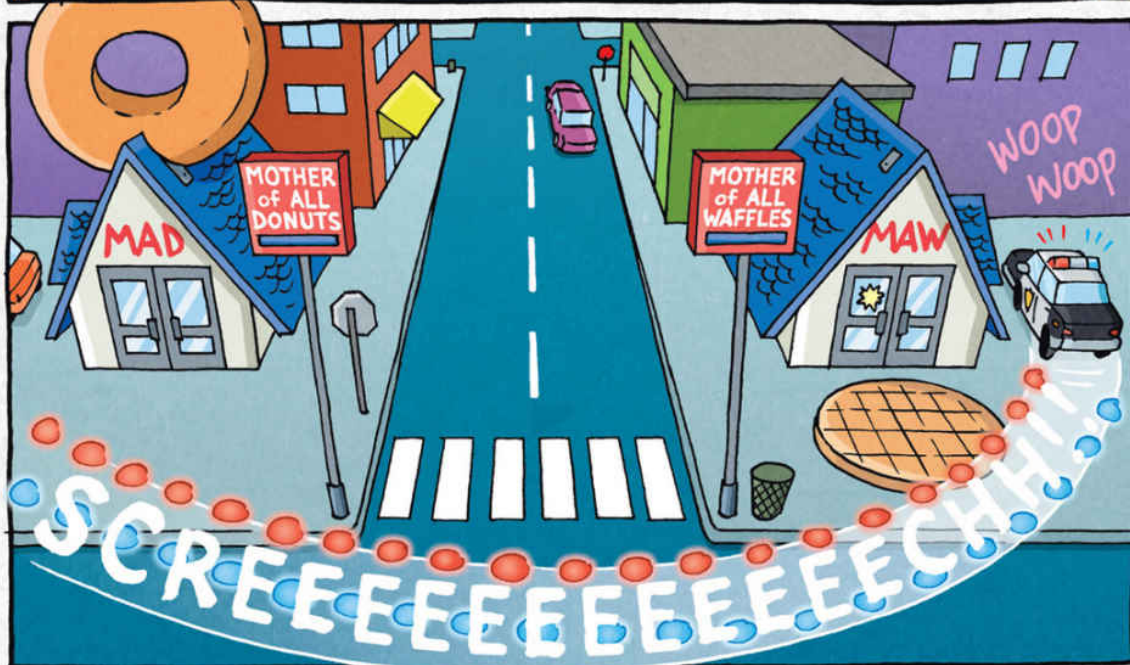


I should head back to the bank in case I missed any clues.





CHICKEN AND WAFFLES?! I know just where to go!



Yeah, I'd like a Wafflenator with a wing, thigh, and extra syrup!



What?



Chapter 14

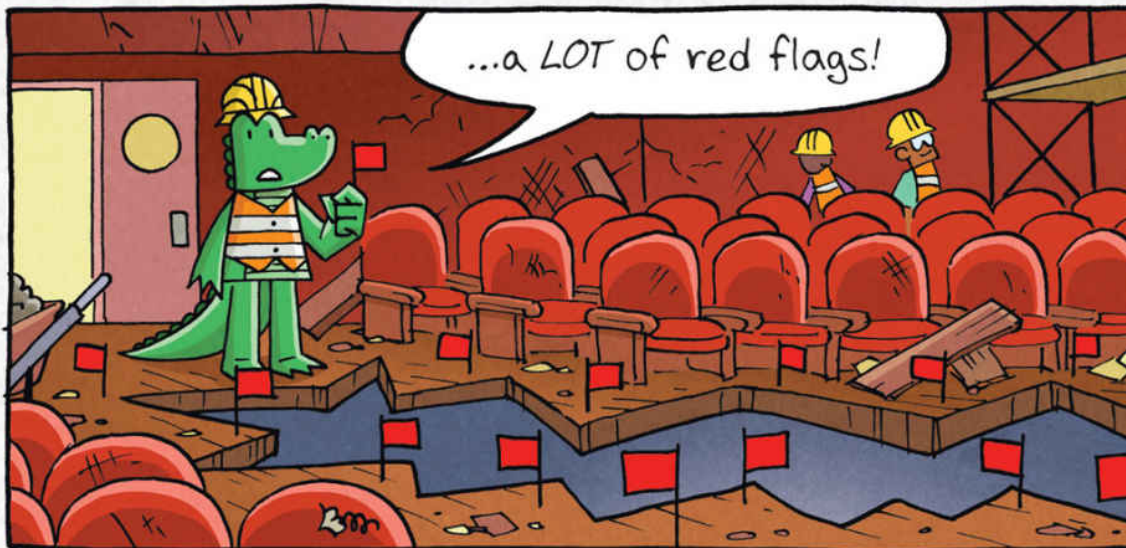


But what would a snake-armed plumber want with an opera house?



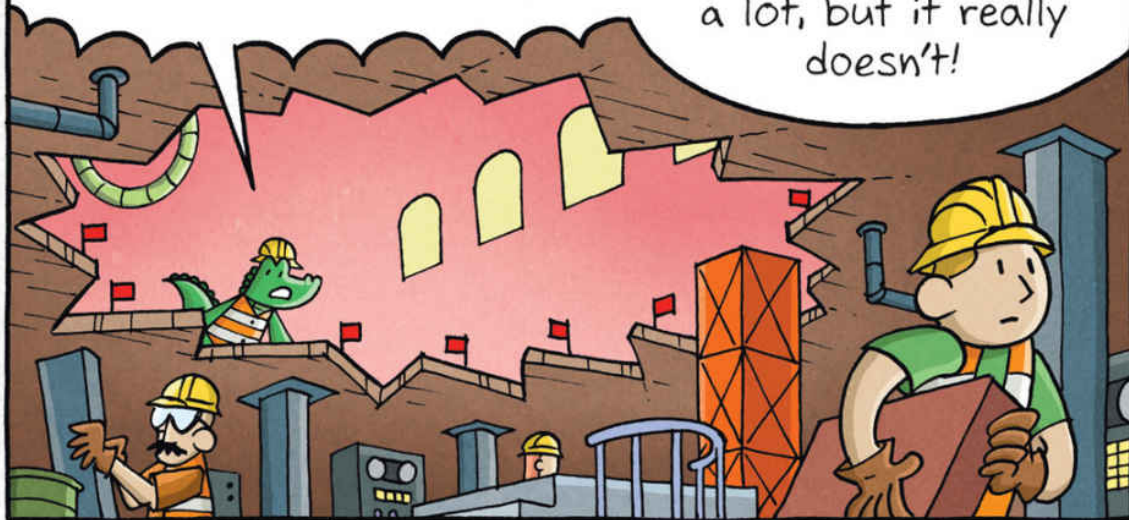
Gonna be tough paying these construction workers since they left the money at the MAW!



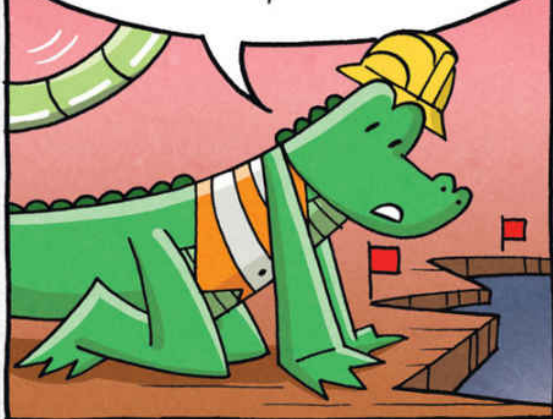


A ROCKET BASEMENT!

I'd say this explains a lot, but it really doesn't!

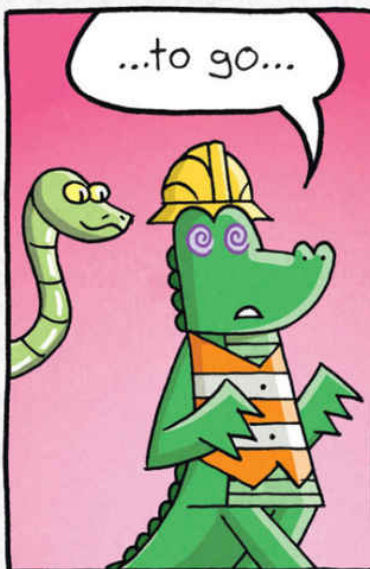
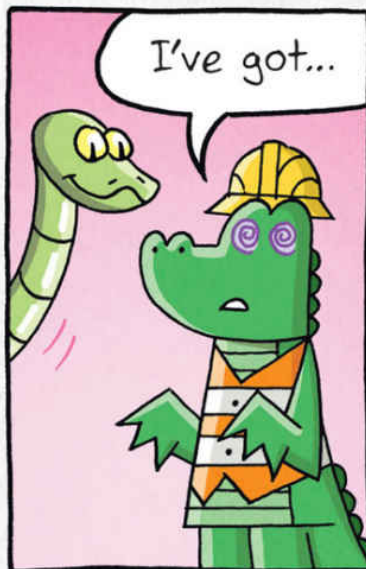


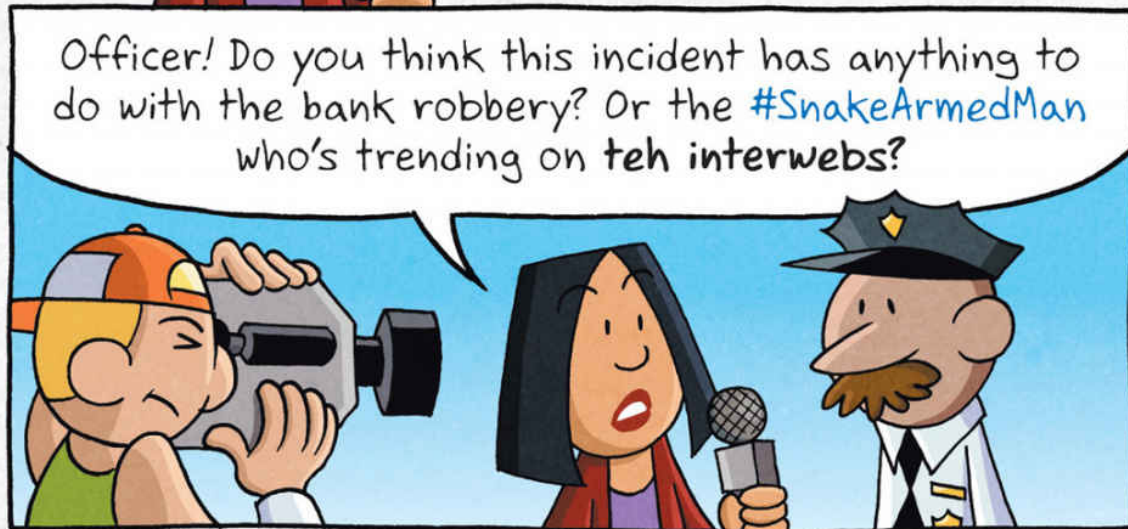
How did Hookline and Slinker even know about this place?

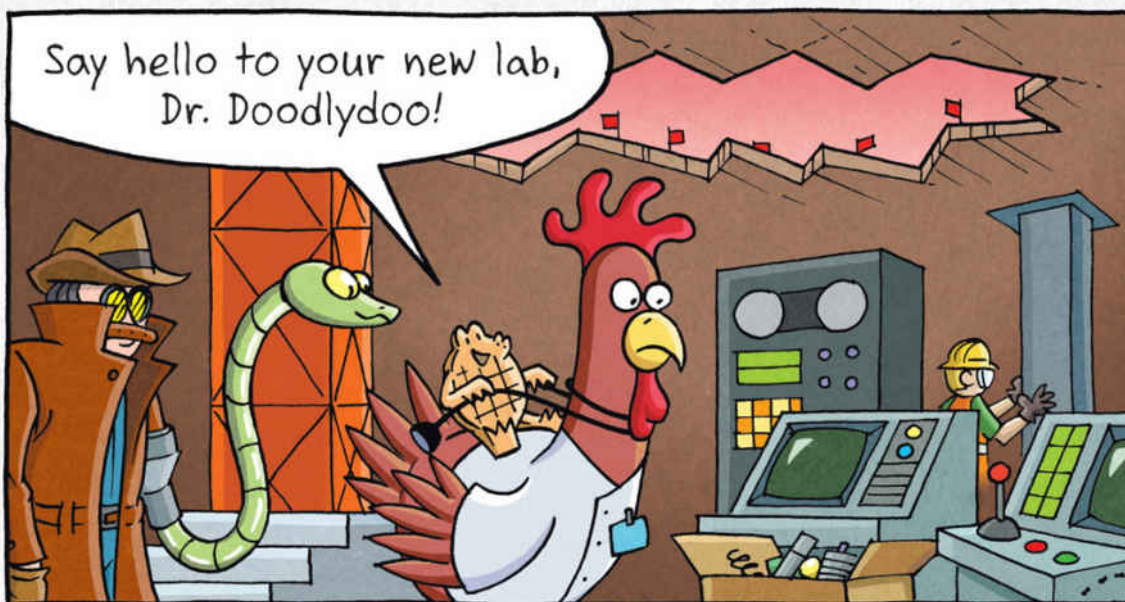
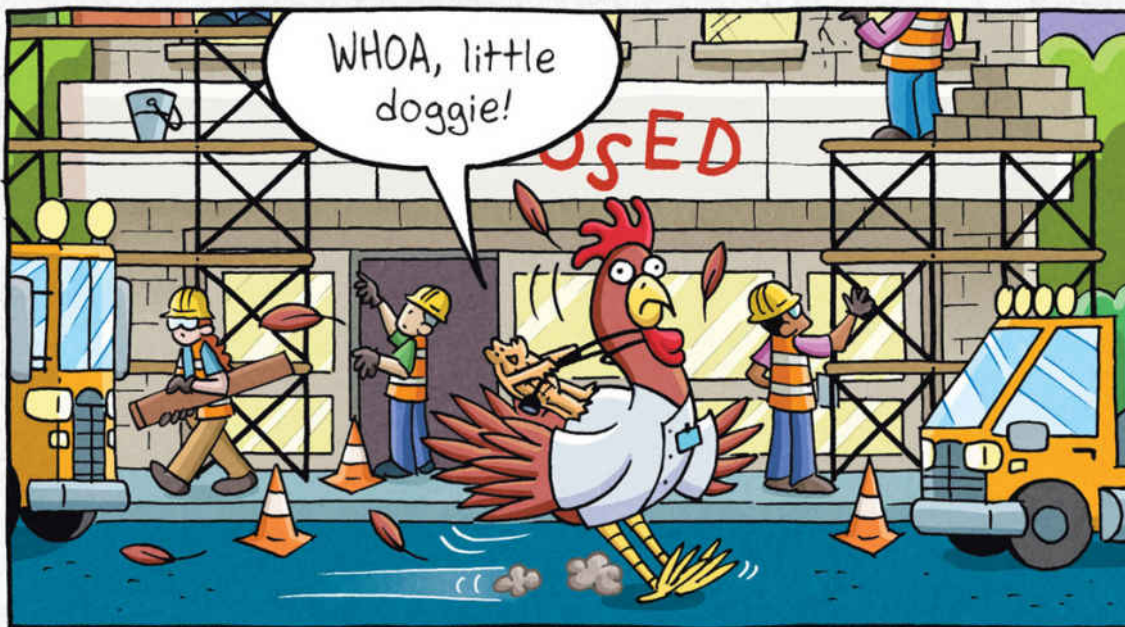


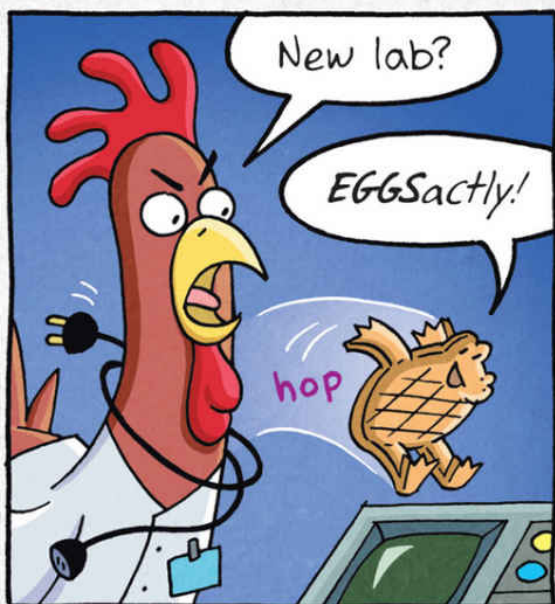
Hookline and Slinker! I mean, uh, HOWDY, BOSS...? I'm just on my union-mandated construction worker break. I certainly wasn't spying.







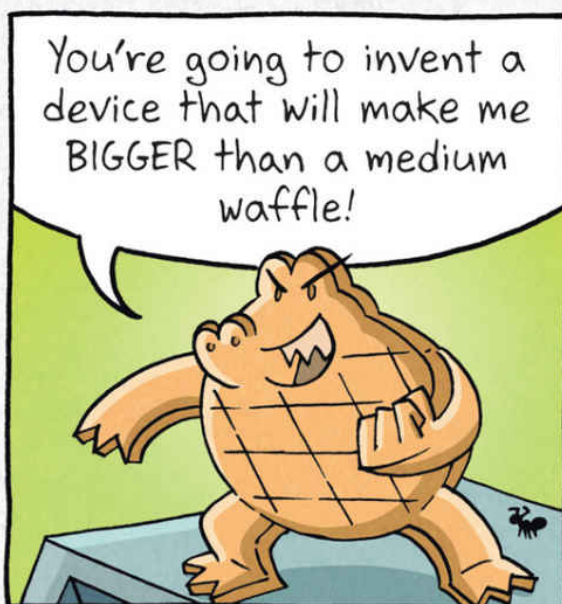




New lab?

EGGSactly!

hop



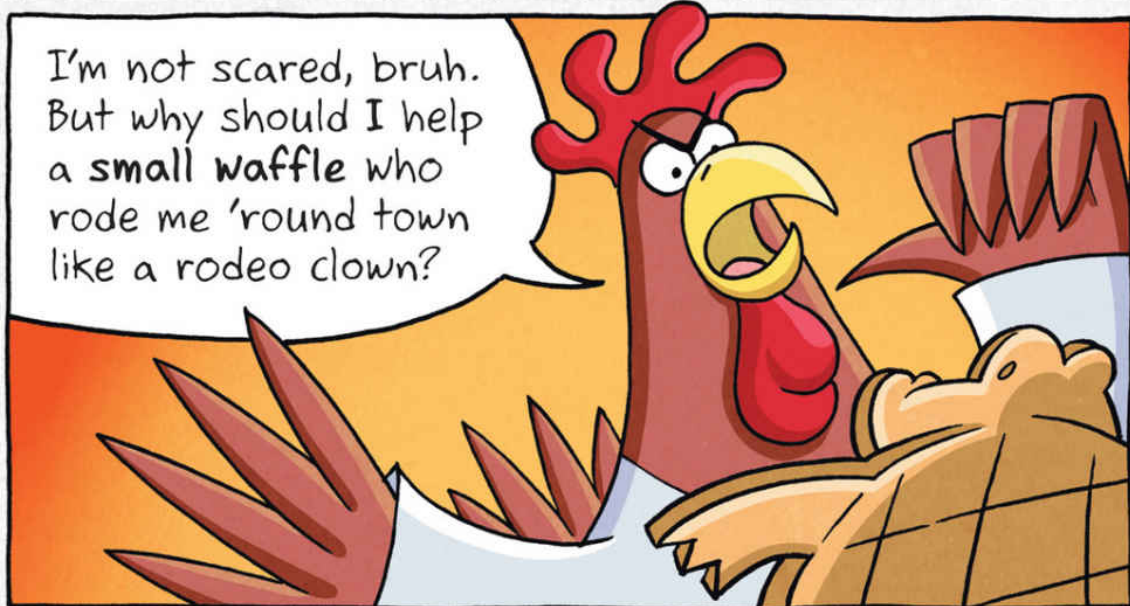
You're going to invent a device that will make me BIGGER than a medium waffle!



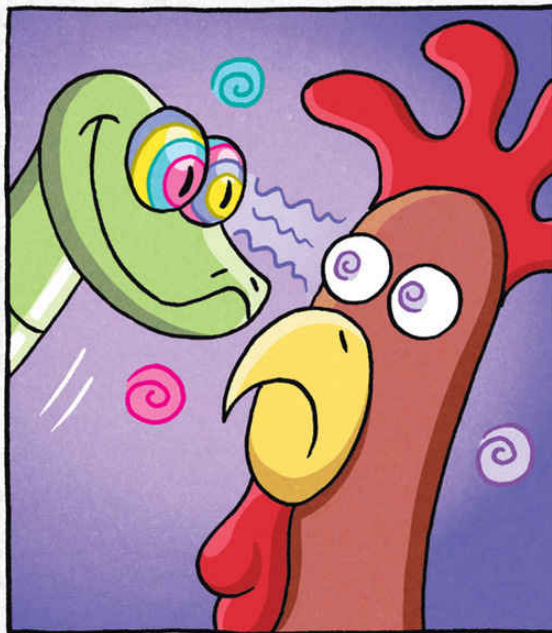
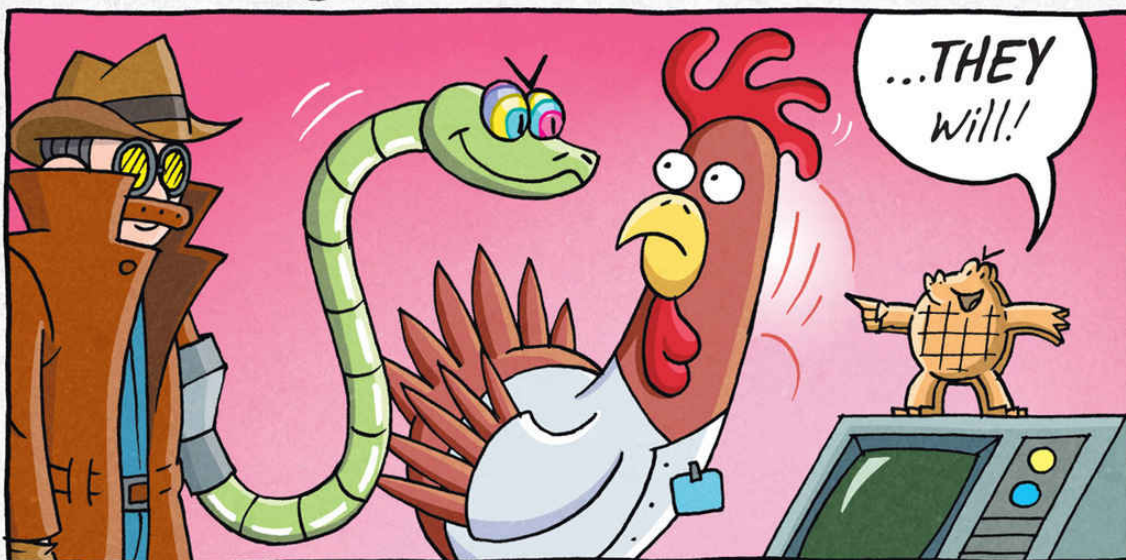
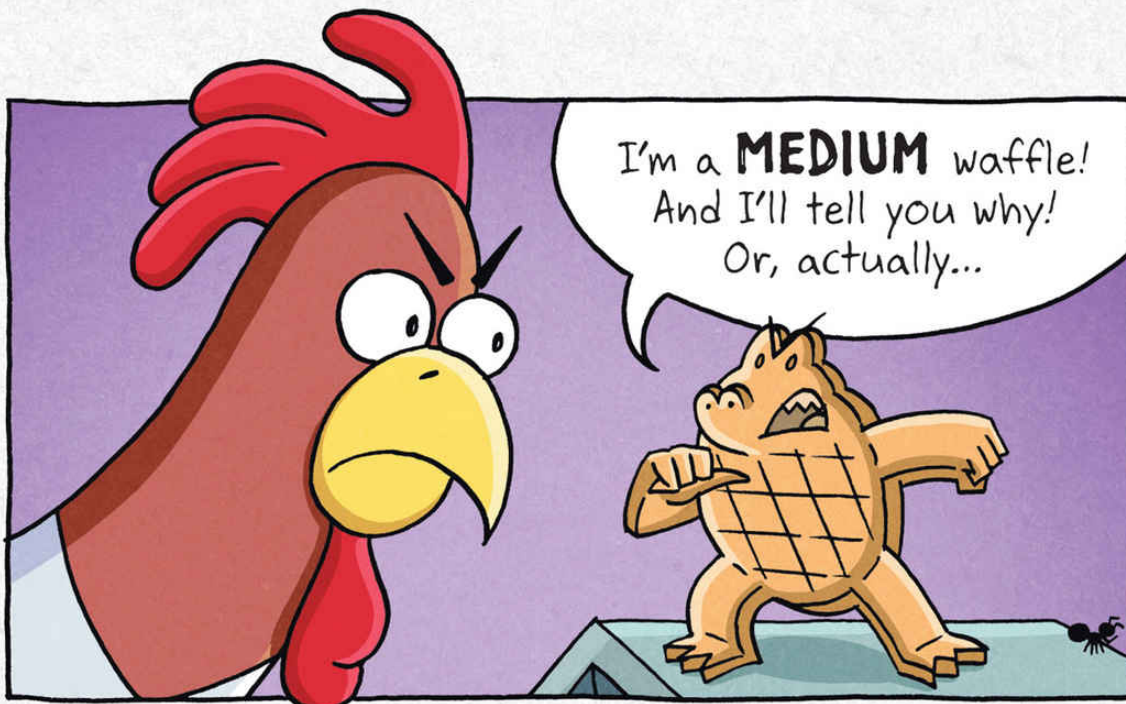
Well? Can you make something outta all this science, Doctor? Or are you just chicken?

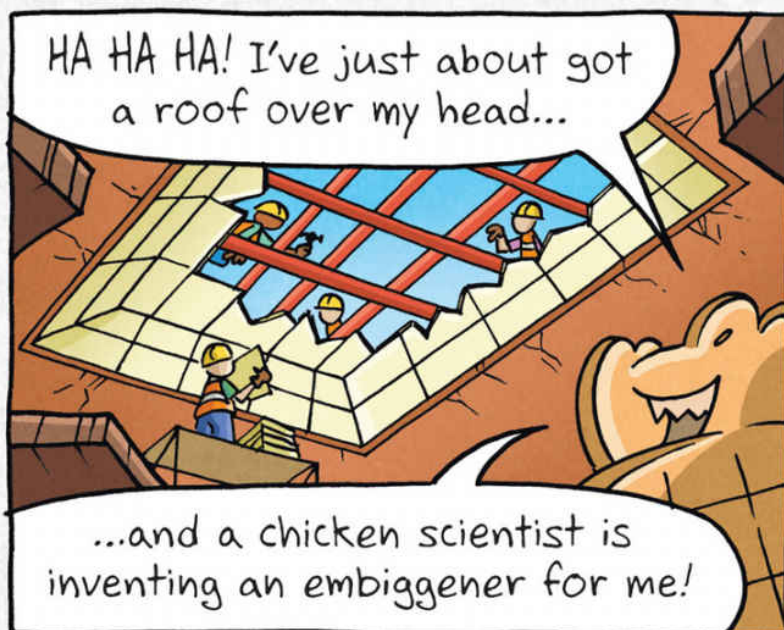
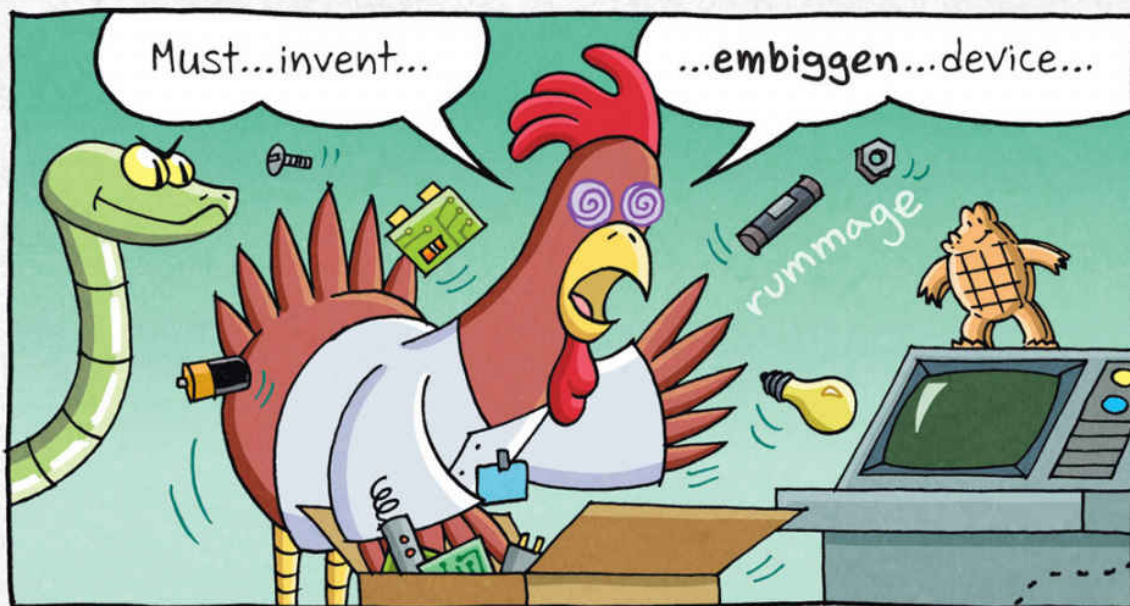
glance

Sciency Parts



I'm not scared, bruh. But why should I help a small waffle who rode me 'round town like a rodeo clown?





Chapter 15

Back to Brash...

Dagnabbit!

No additional clues in the bank, AND I left the MAW in such a hurry I forgot to bring back the stolen money!

But of greater concern, still no sign of Mango!

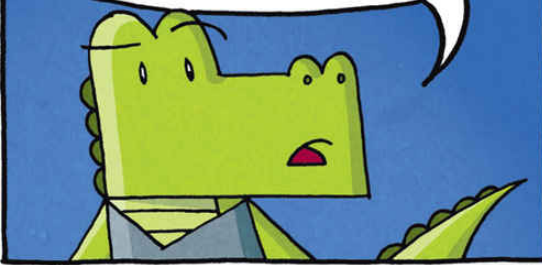


V.E.S.T.,
find
Mango!

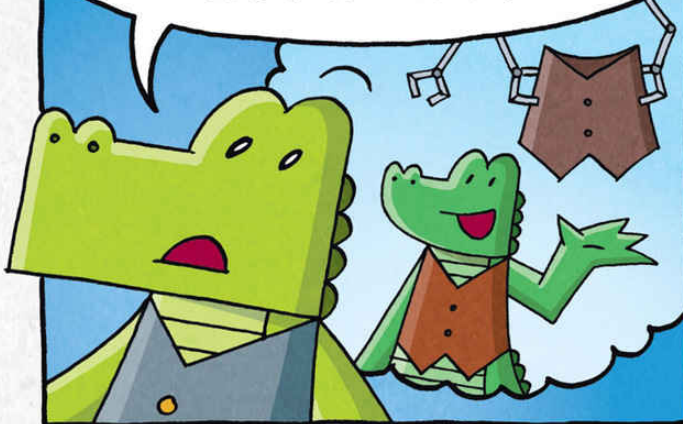
Nothing?
Why can't it
find him?



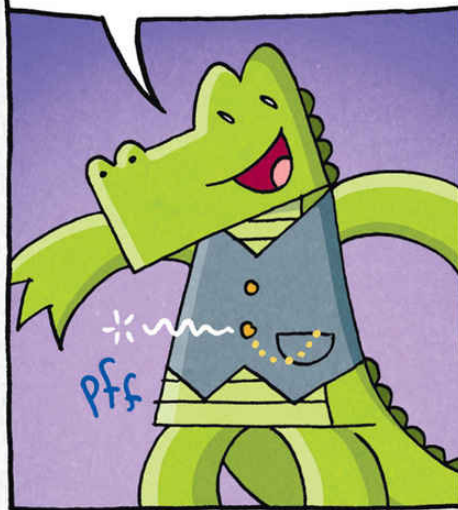
He's not in the bank,
not at the MAW... Maybe
he went back to S.U.I.T.
Headquarters?



Wait a minute—when we left
A.R.M.S., Mango technically
took **MY** V.E.S.T.!

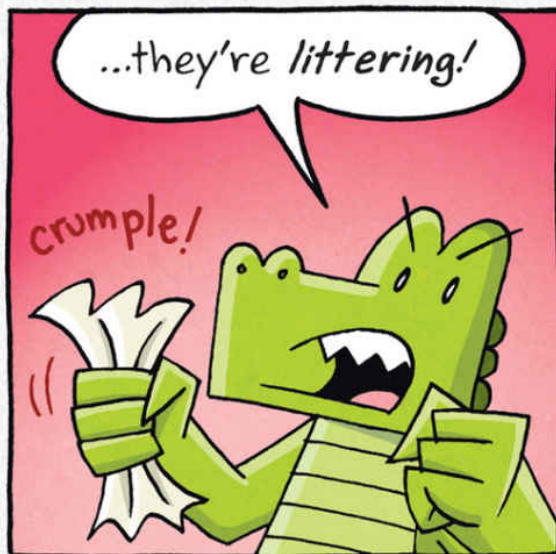
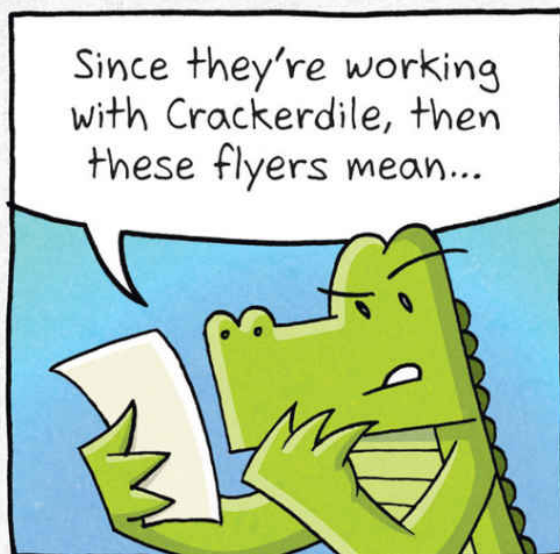


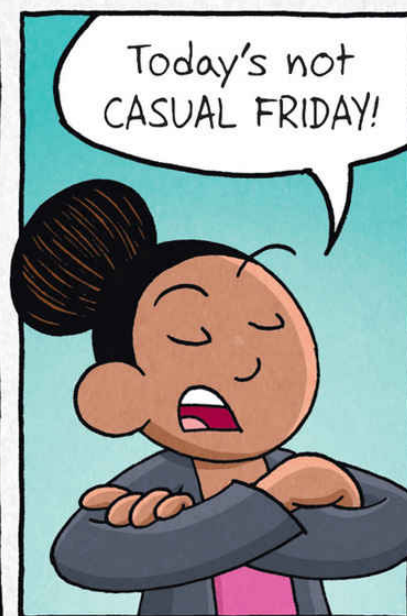
V.E.S.T.! Find **BRASH!**

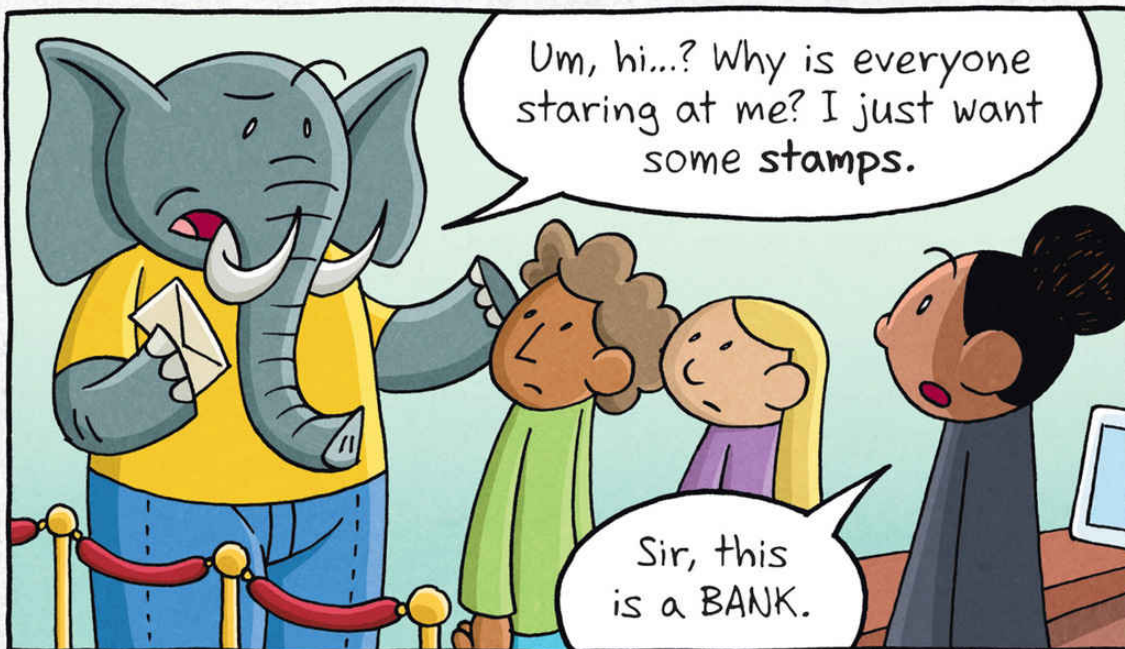




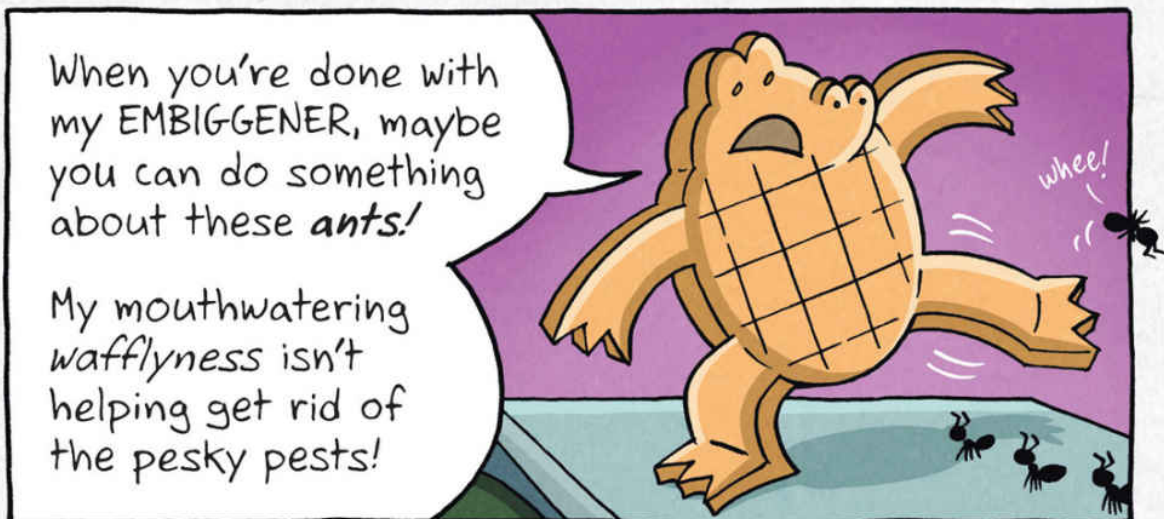
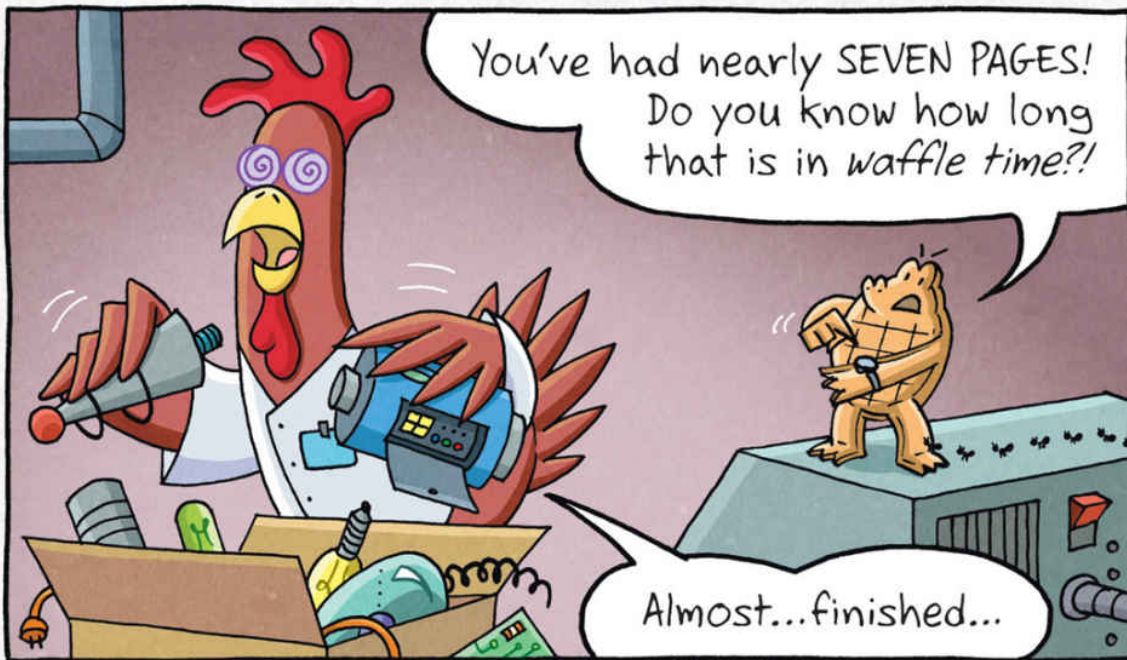
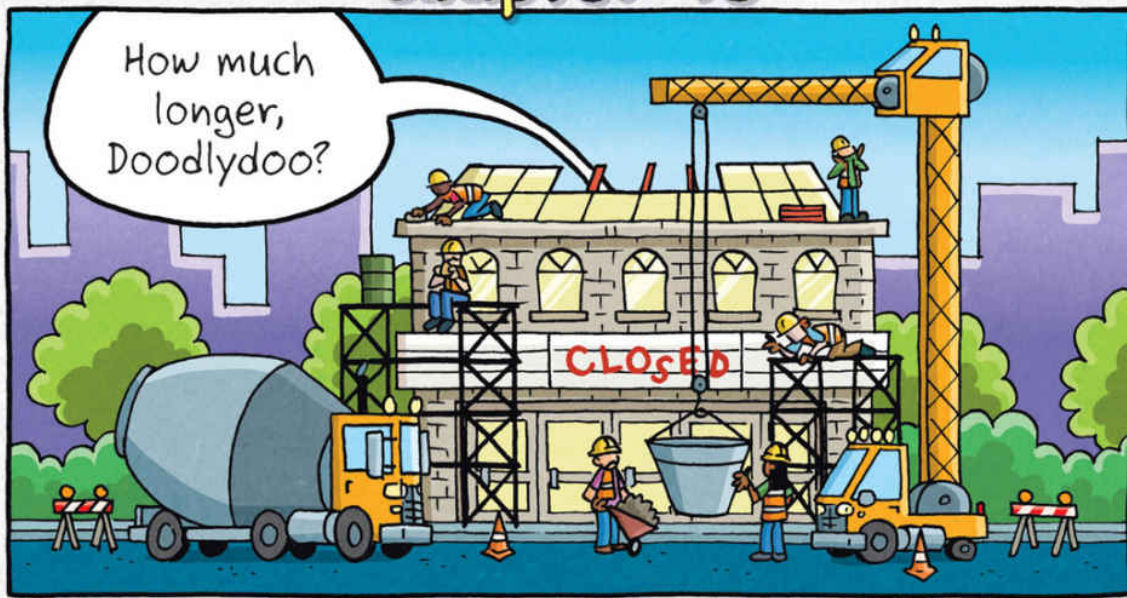
T.A.I.L. Blazers?

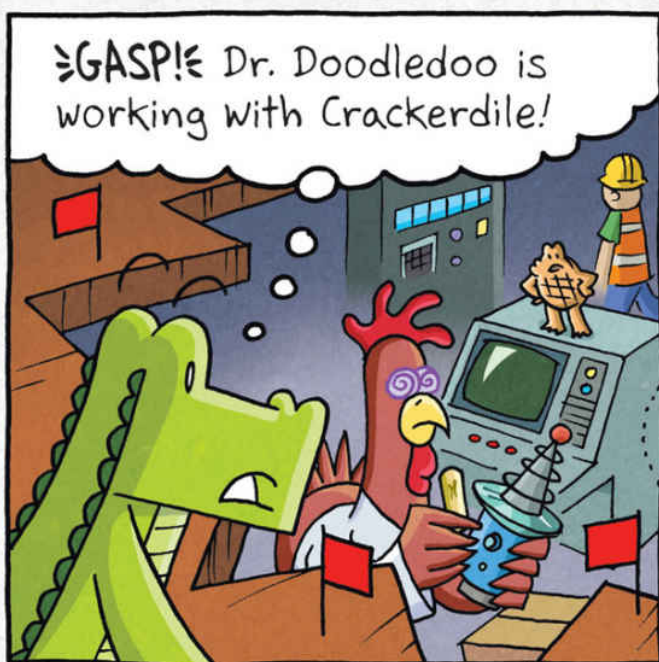


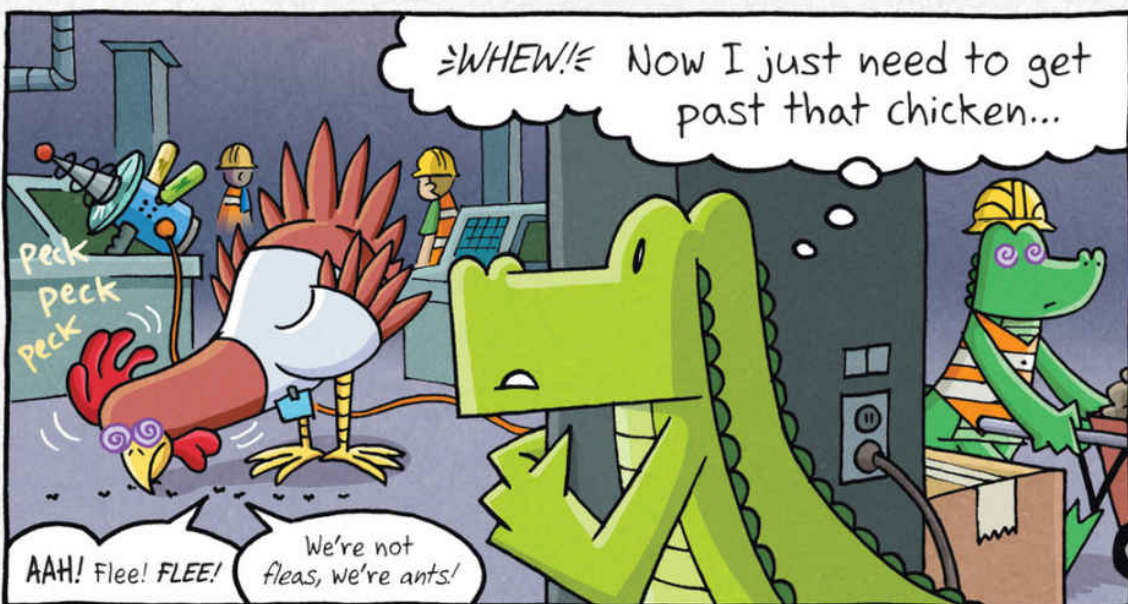
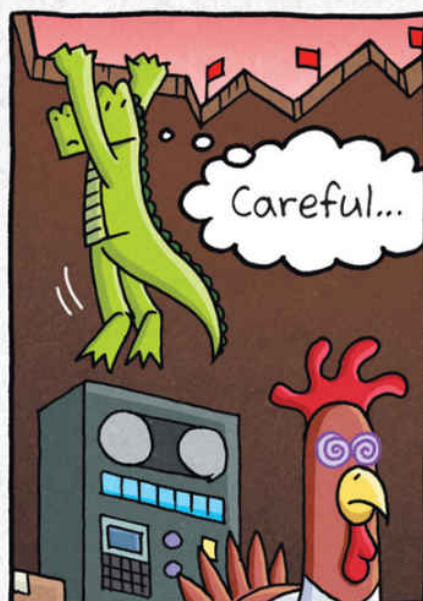
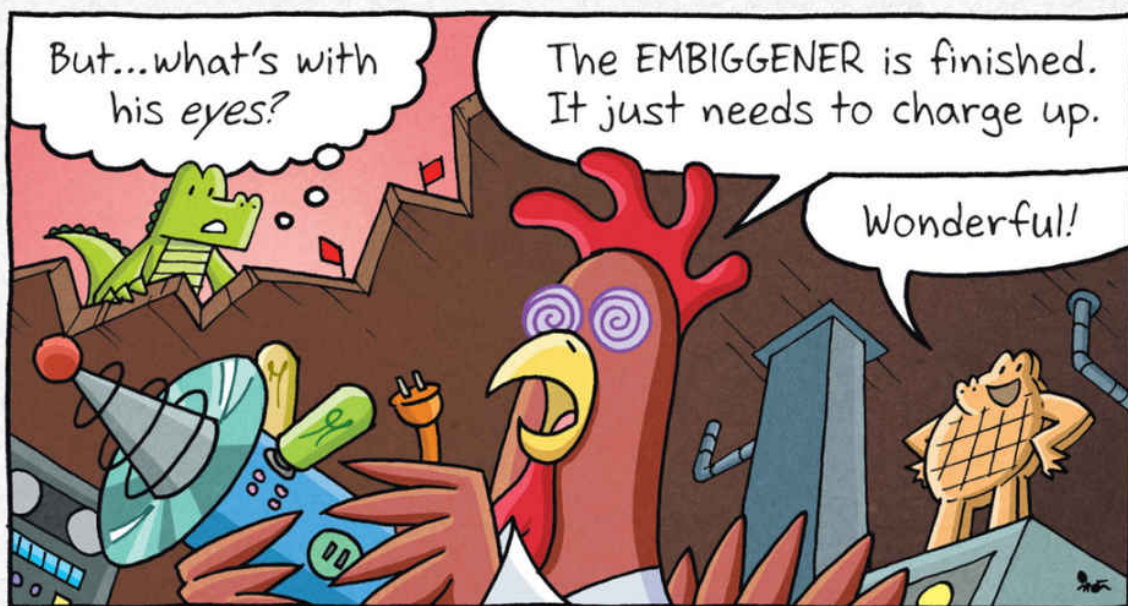




Chapter 16



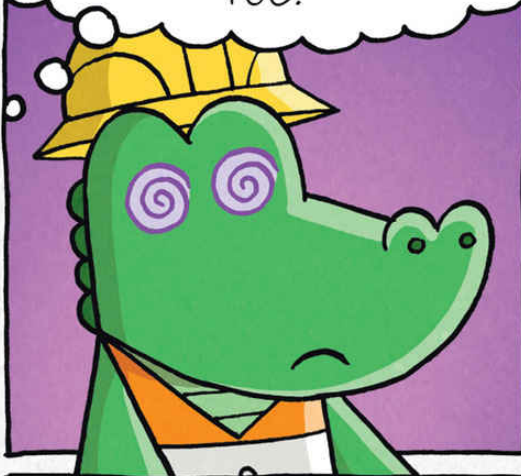




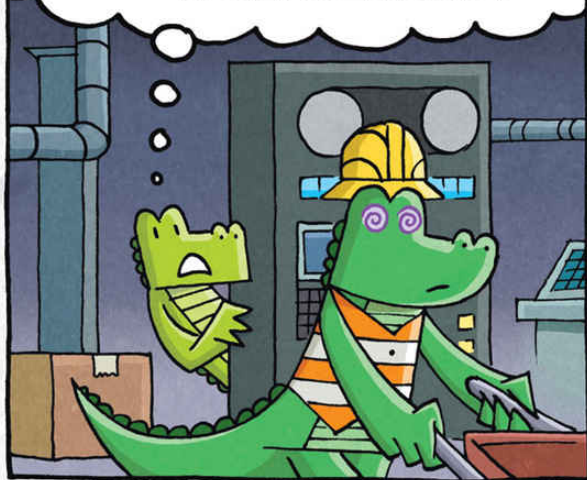
Huh? **MANGO!** He's...undercover as a construction worker! What a relief. Smart move, partner!



Wait a minute—*HIS* eyes are all squiggly, too!



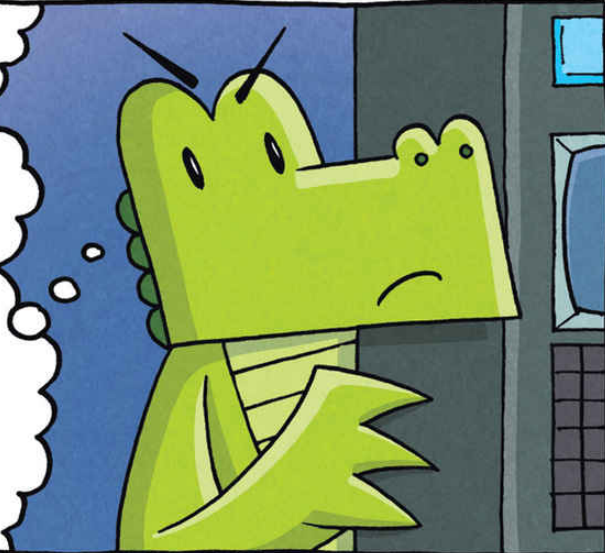
Mango and Dr. Doodledoo are **HYPNOTIZED!**

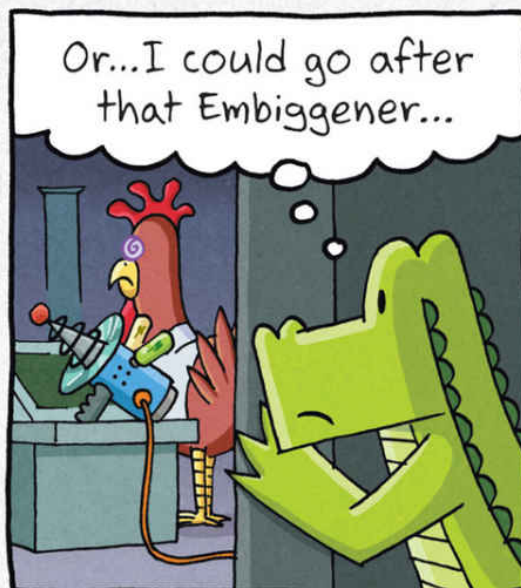


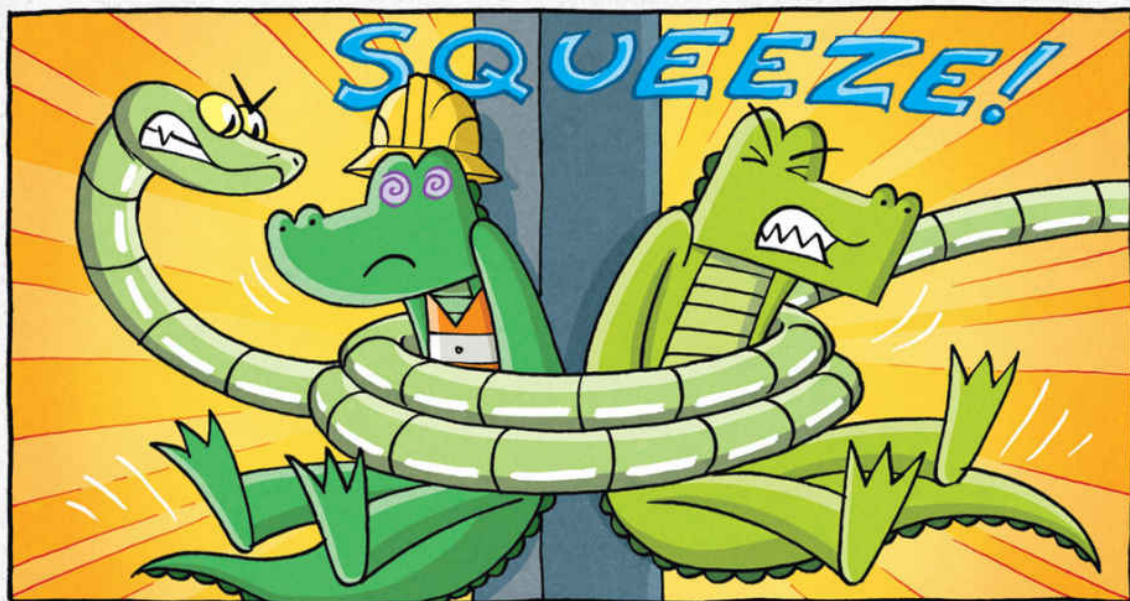
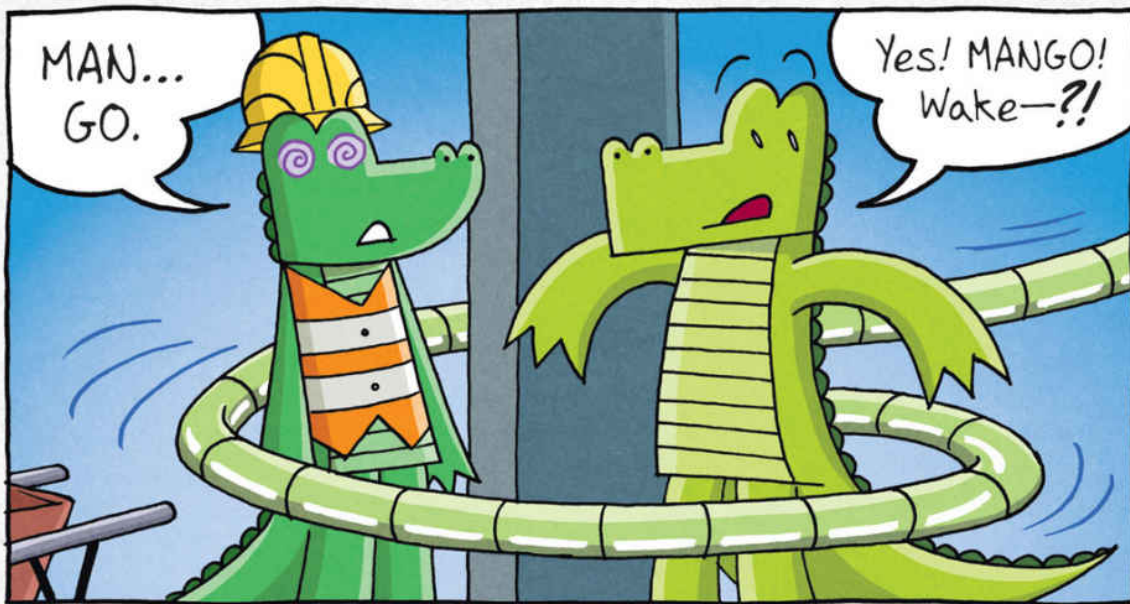
Their hypnosis must be because of...

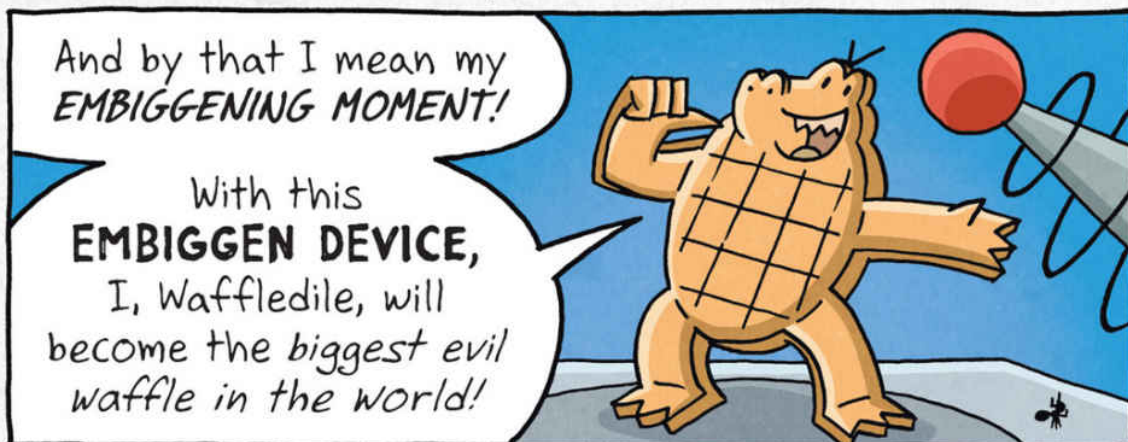
SLINKER, the SNAKE!

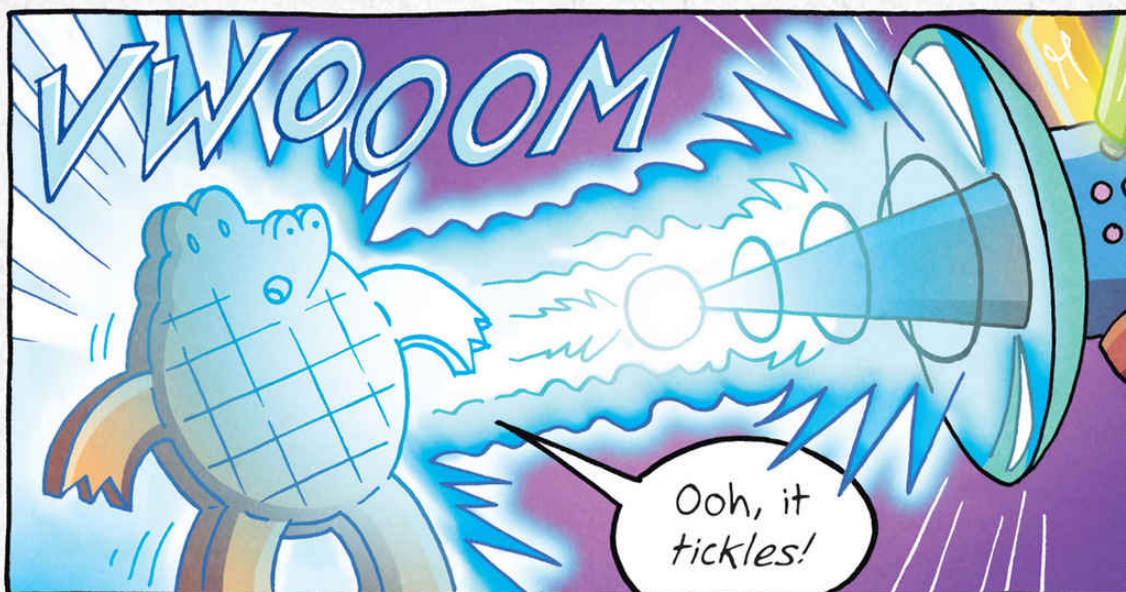
Science says snakes being able to hypnotize their prey is a myth... but Mango's eyes say science is *mythtaken!*

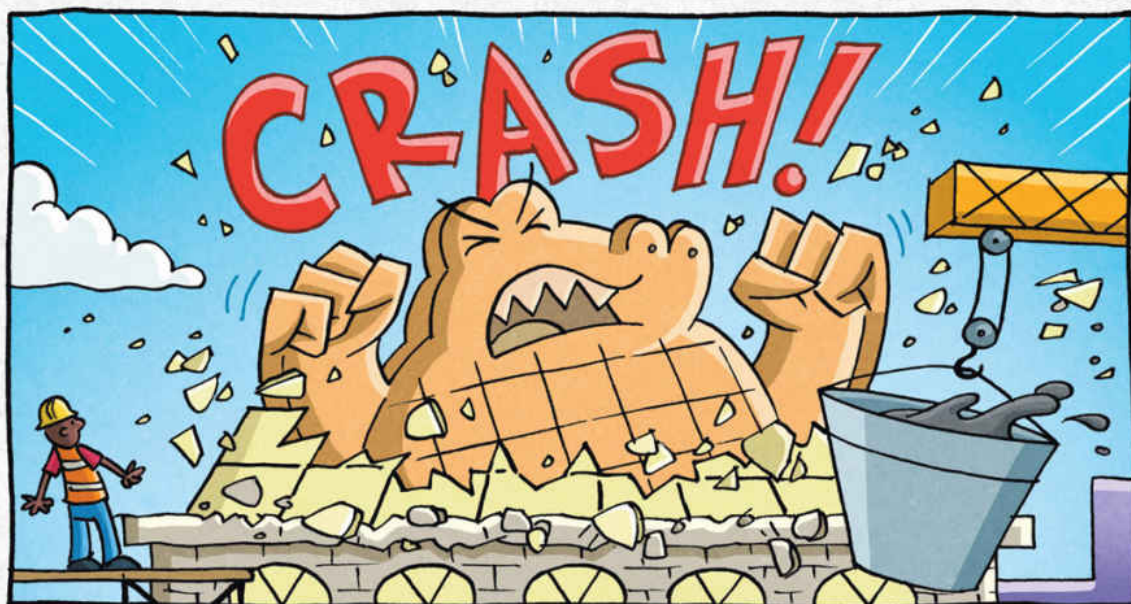


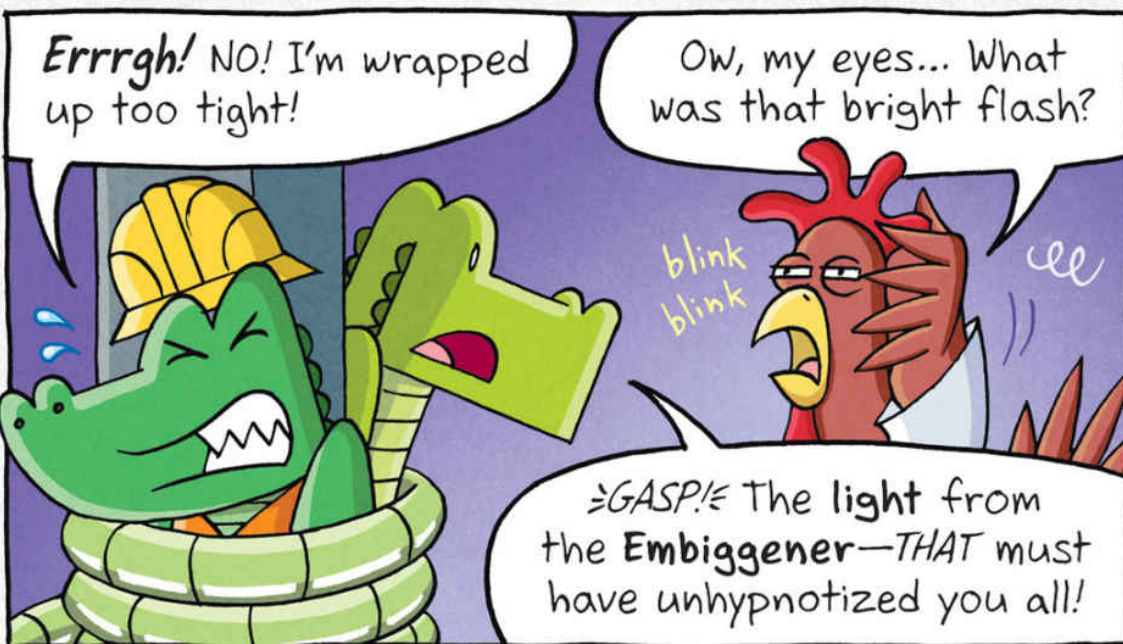


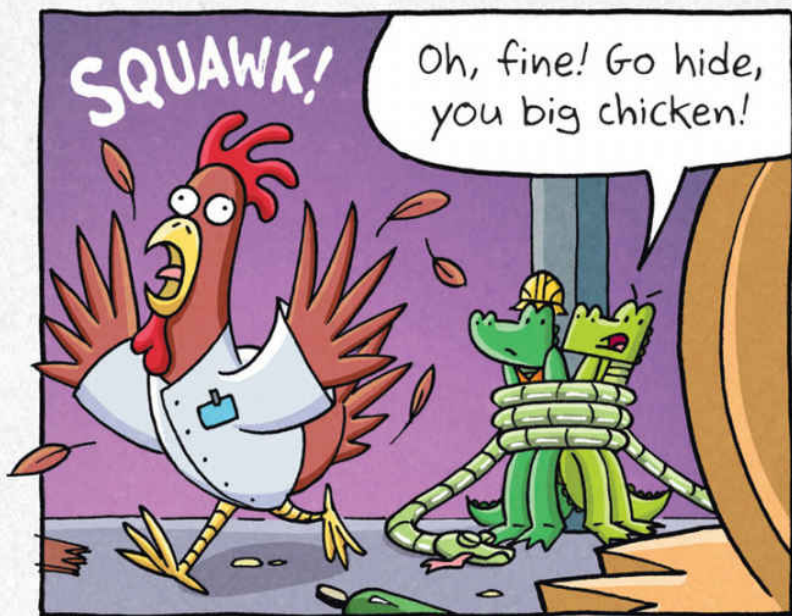
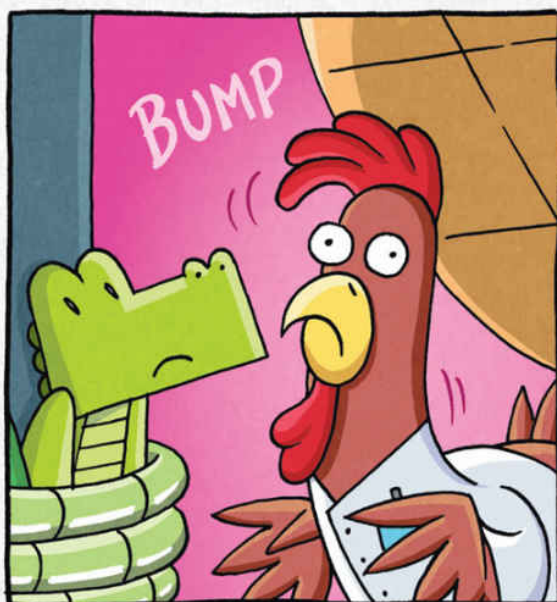


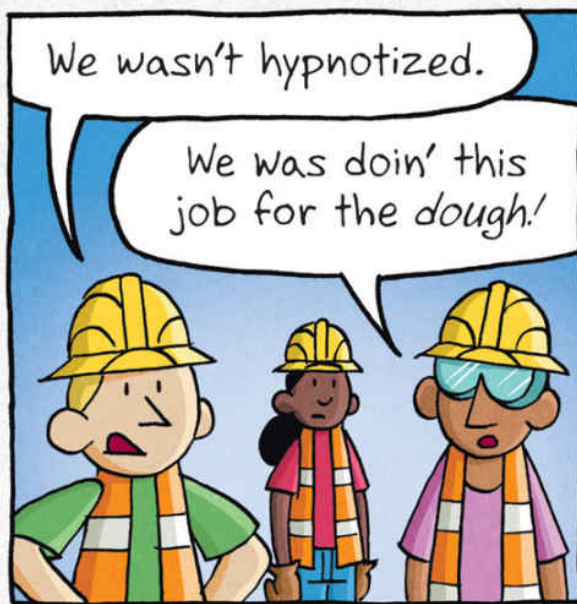
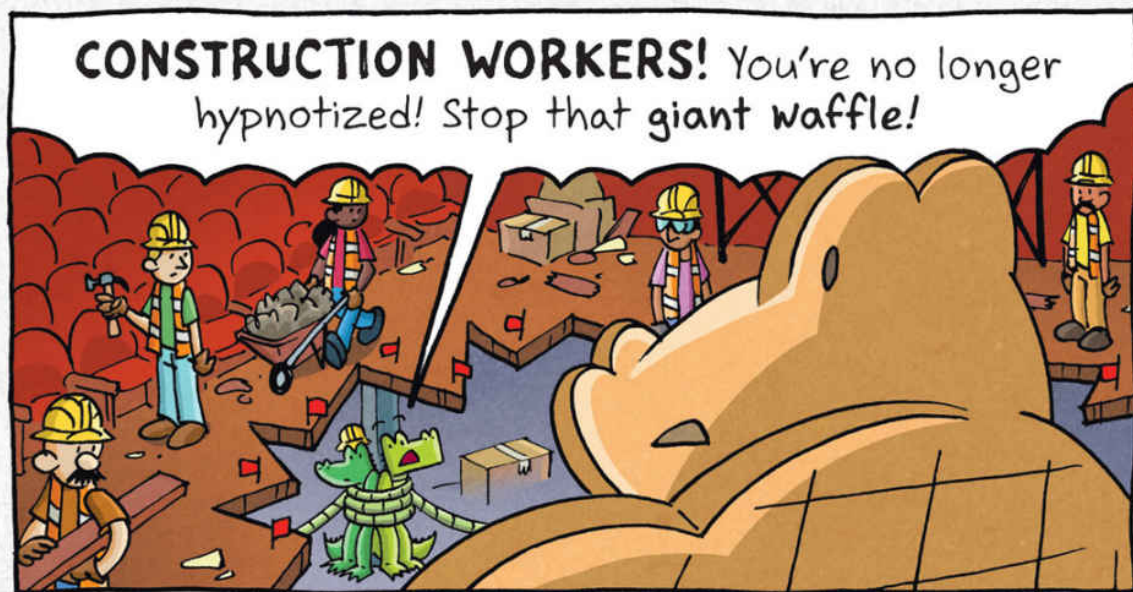
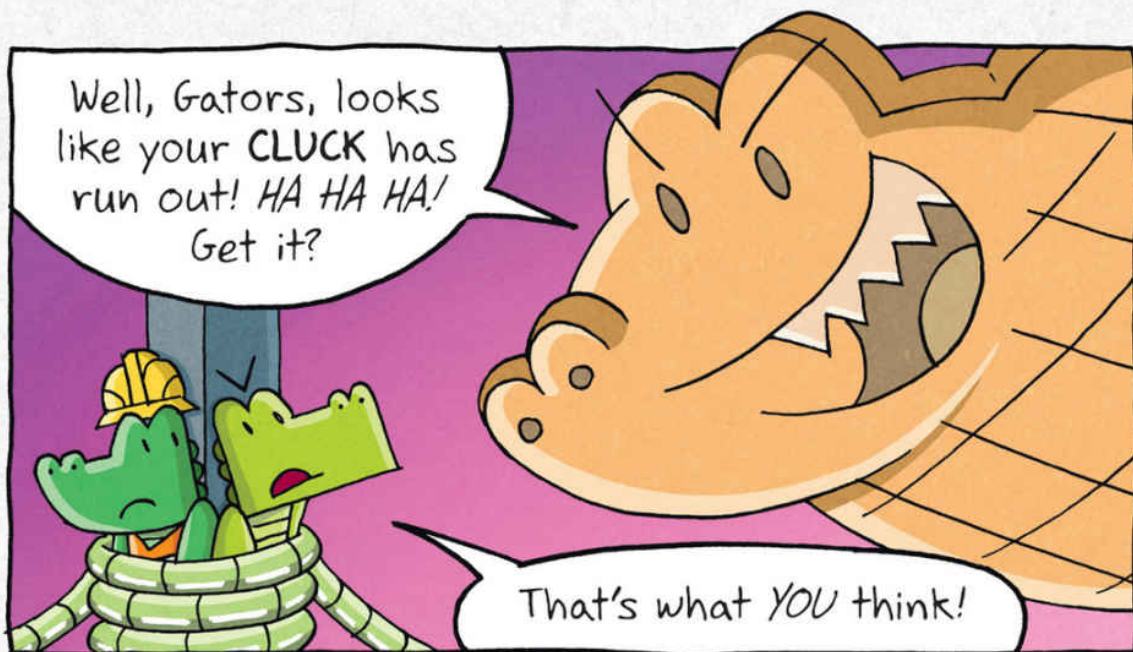


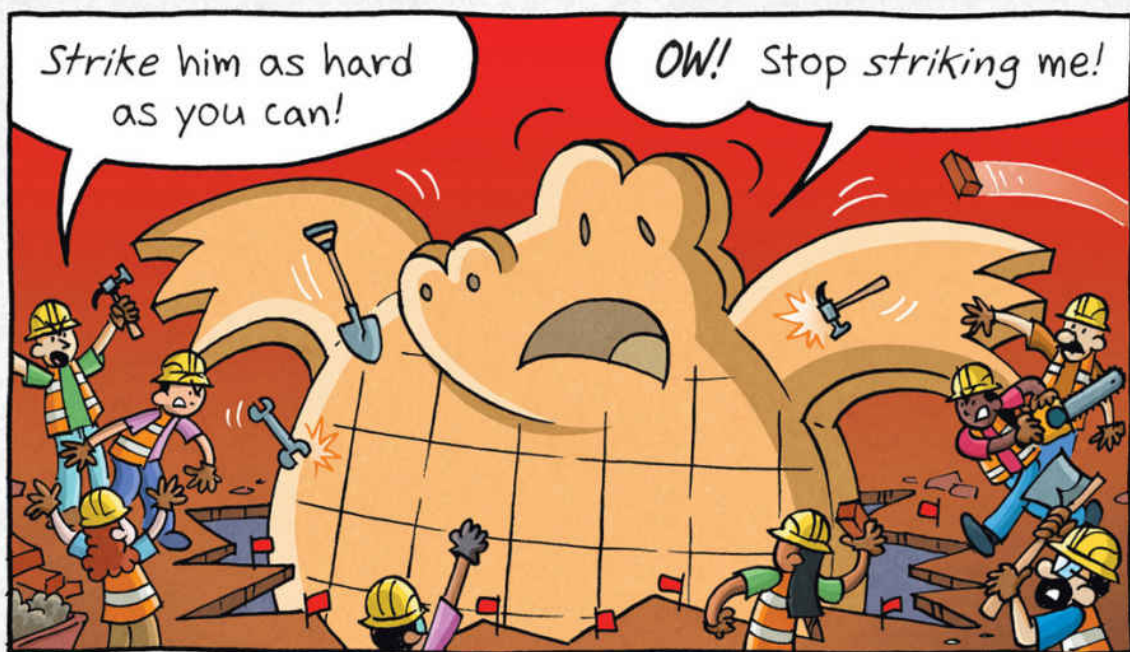








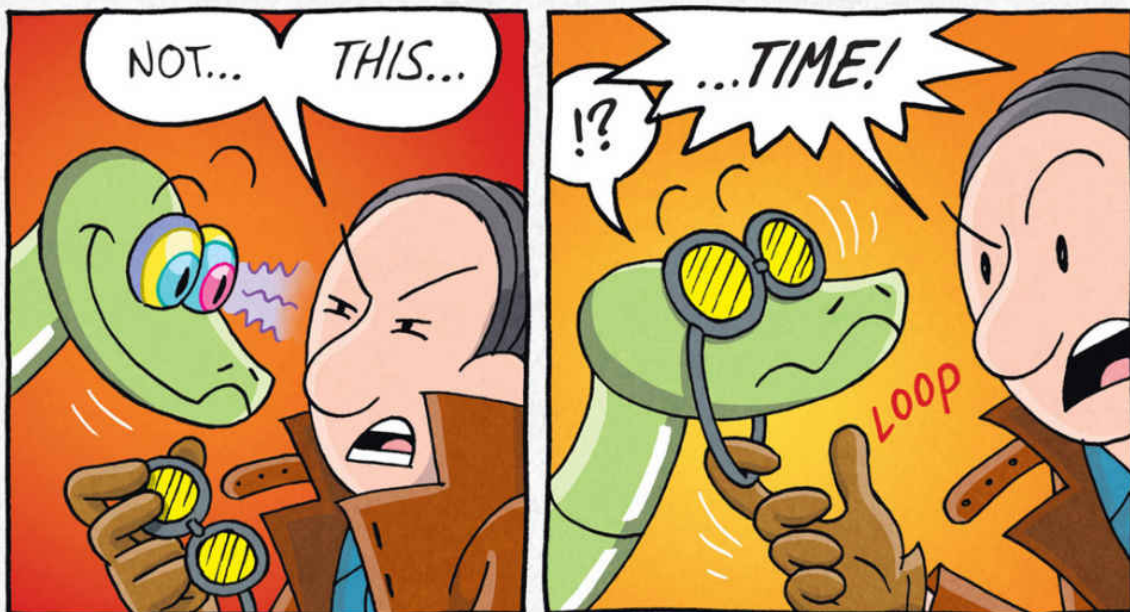
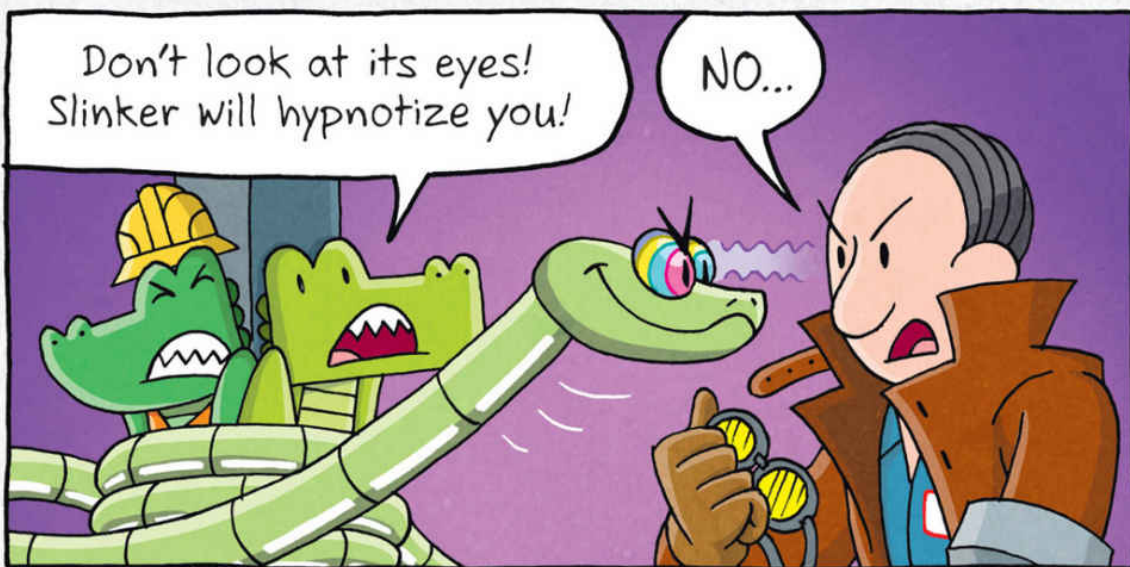






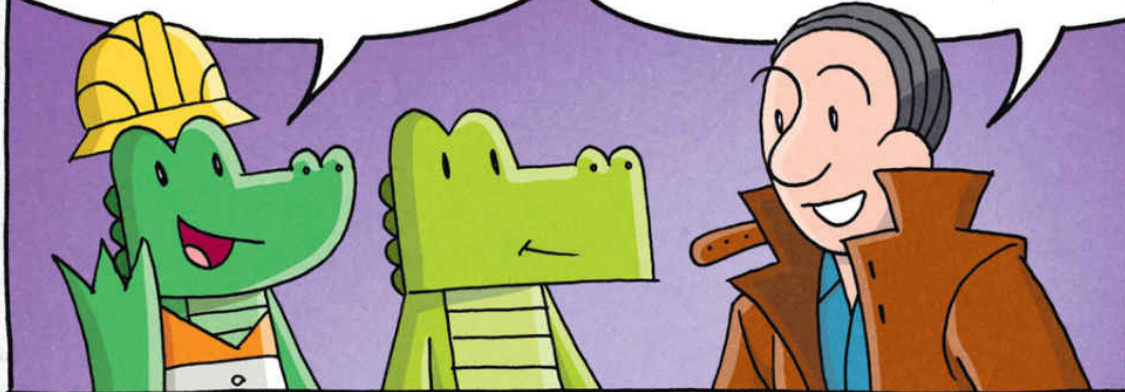
Chapter 17



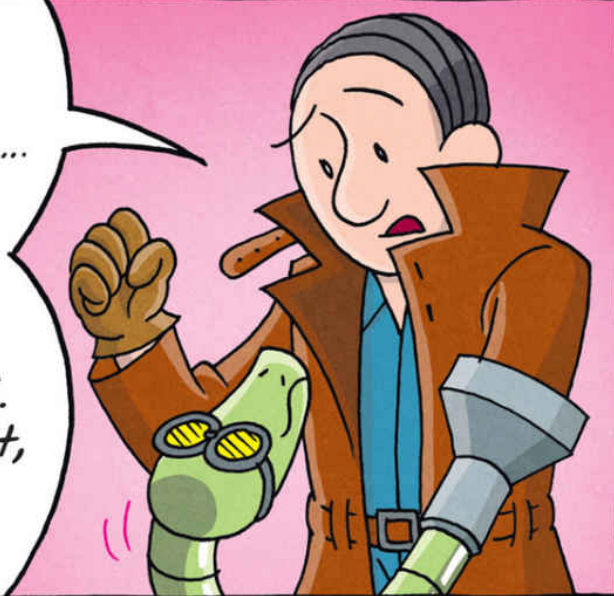


I'm **Mango** and this is **Brash**, by the way. We're **InvestiGators**.

Thanks. I...I think I remember you now, from that waffle place.



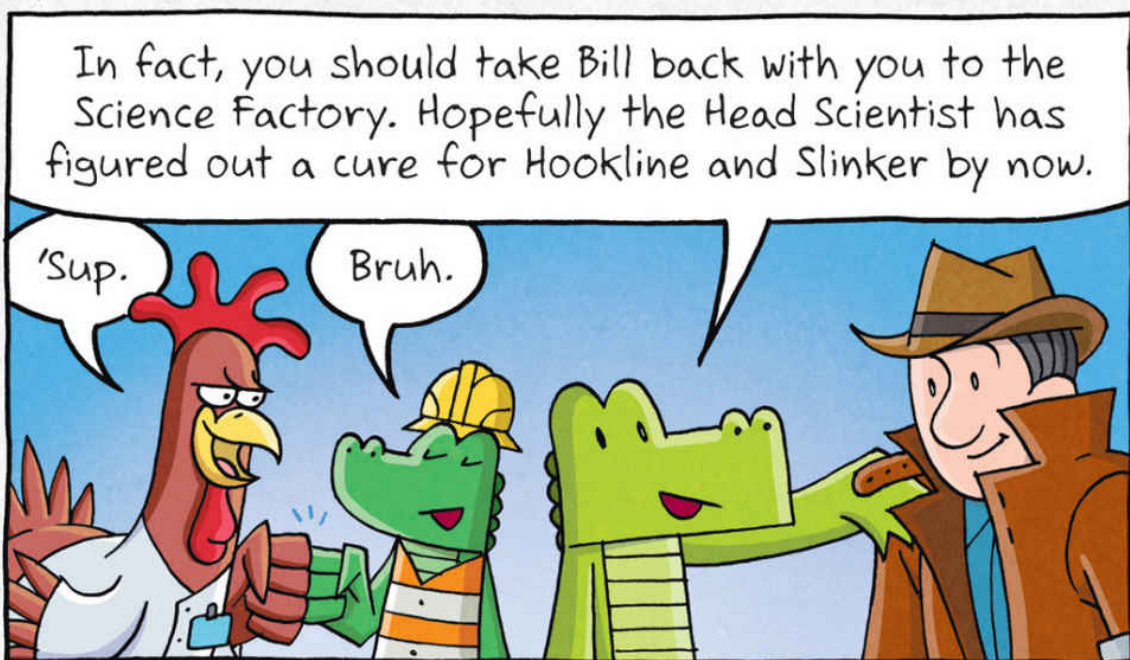
I know you tried to stop me. I didn't *WANT* to rob that bank... or hypnotize anyone... or learn Photoshop just so I could design those flyers...but I couldn't control myself. It's like I was a *puppet*, and this snake was *pulling the strings*.



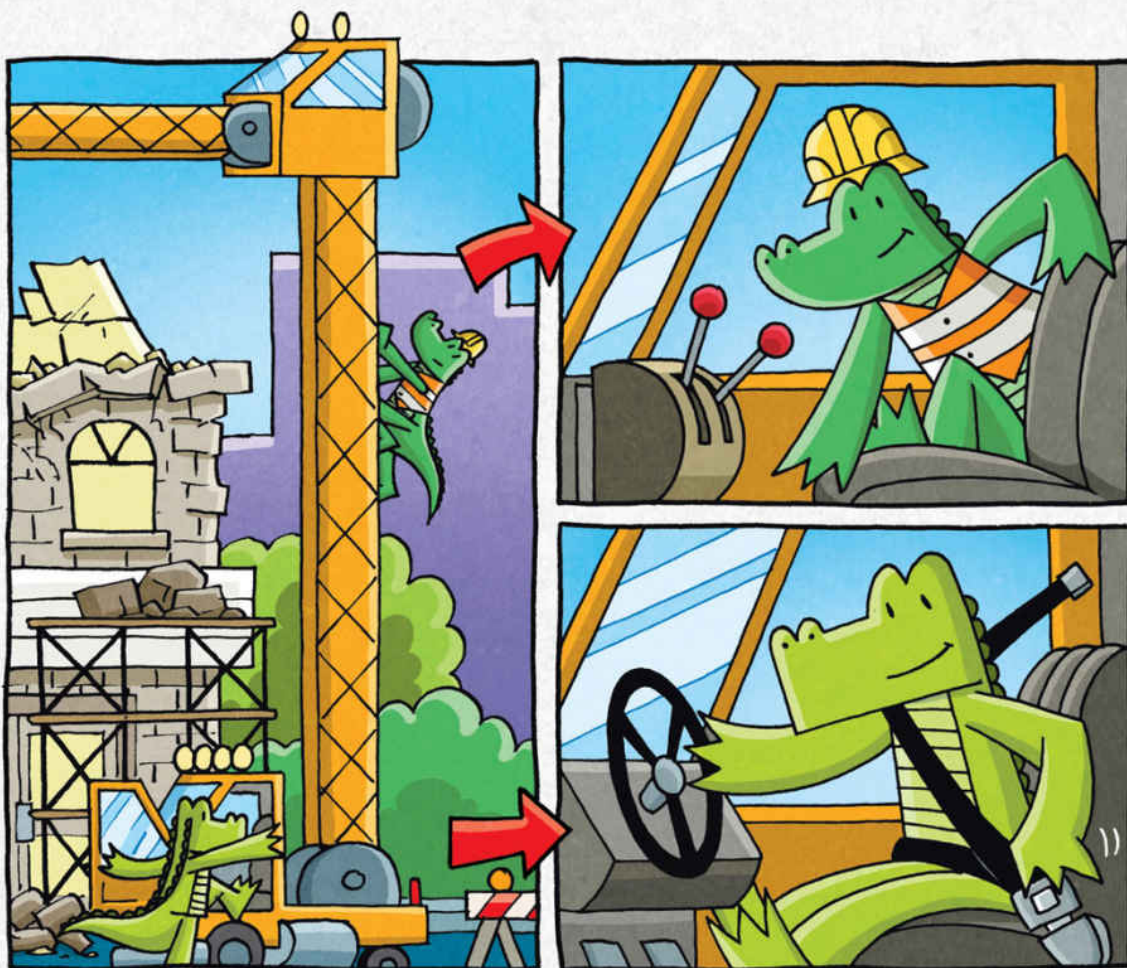
Well, we now know that **CRACKERDILE** was the puppet master all along!

Speaking of whom, any idea where he'd go? What his plans are?









Chapter 18



They demanded a ransom
of \$3.99! Or \$4.99 for
white meat only!

That wasn't ransom!
Those are the *menu*
prices! We *SELL* chicken
and waffles!



Ransom, menu price—either
way, it's *criminal!*



Criminally *crispy!* This
drumstick is *DELISH!*



JOHNSON! How many times do I have to tell you,
don't eat the hostages!





Johnnycakes are made with cornmeal! You're just a plain waffle!

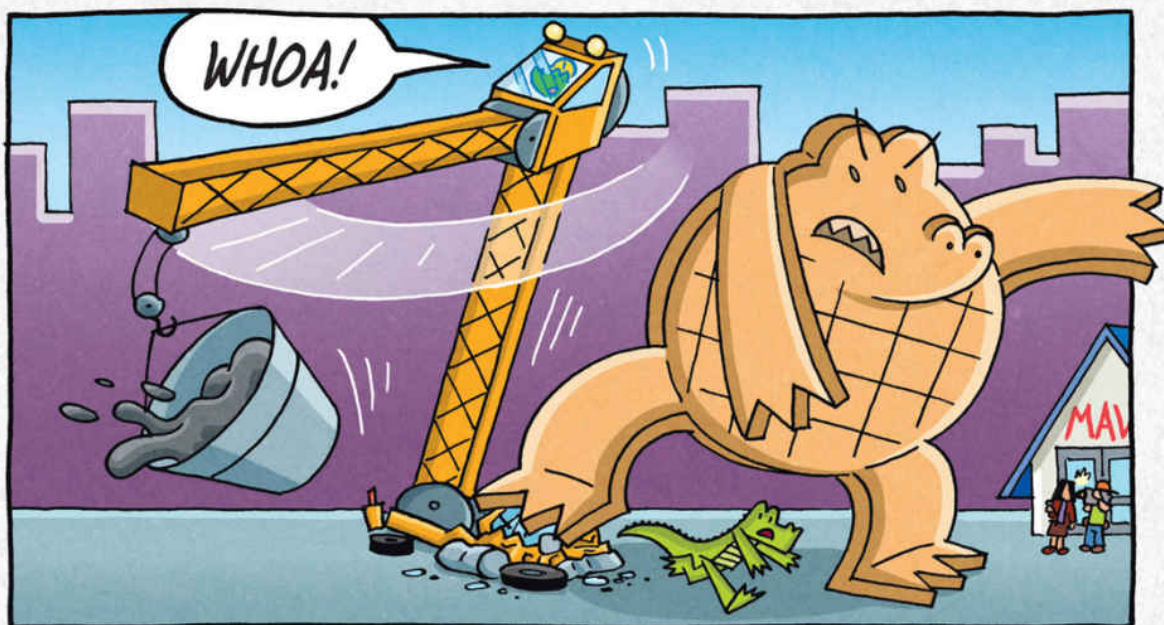
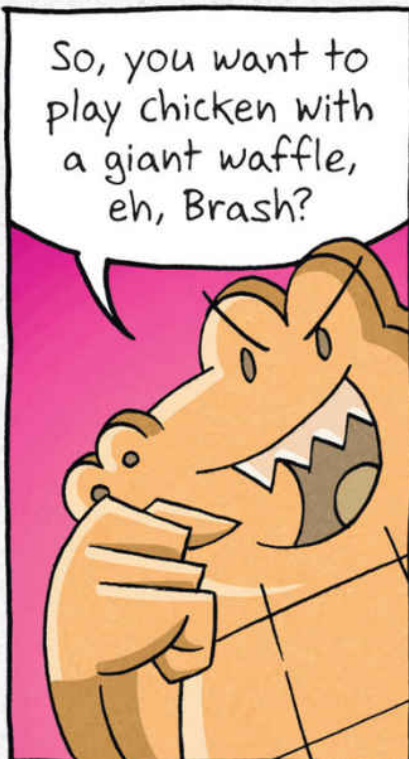
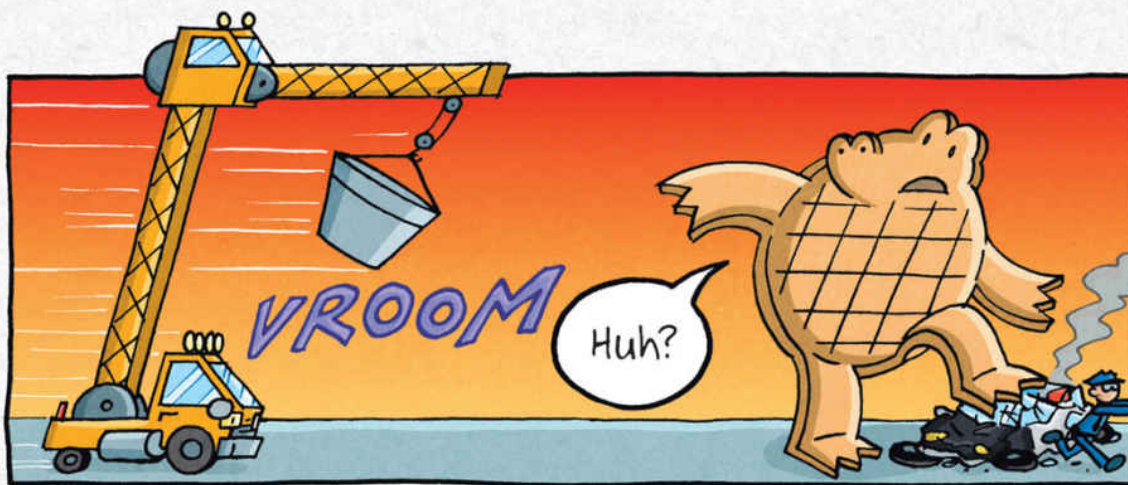


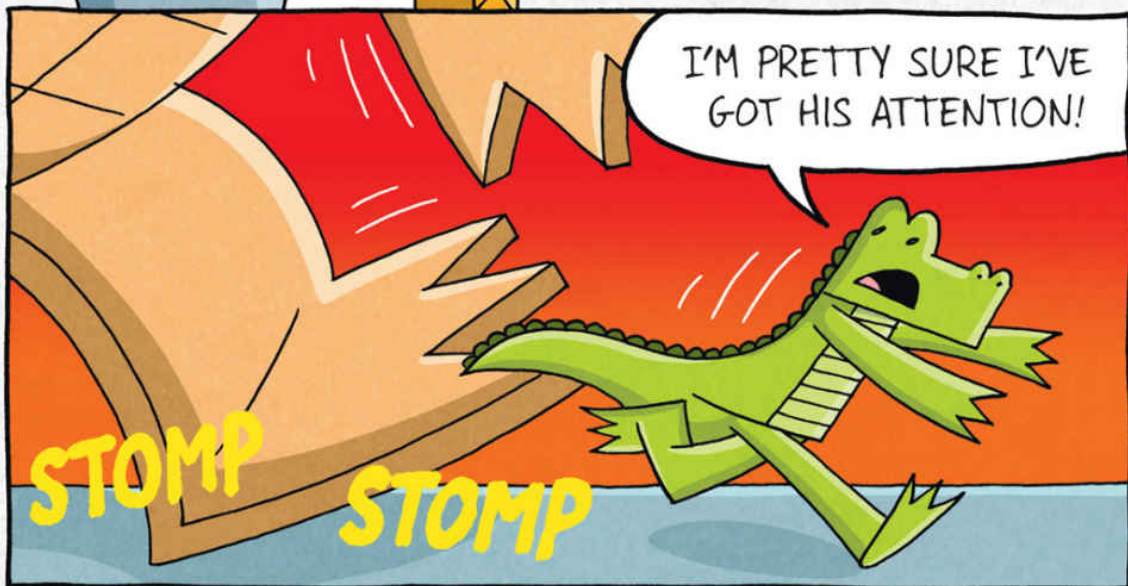
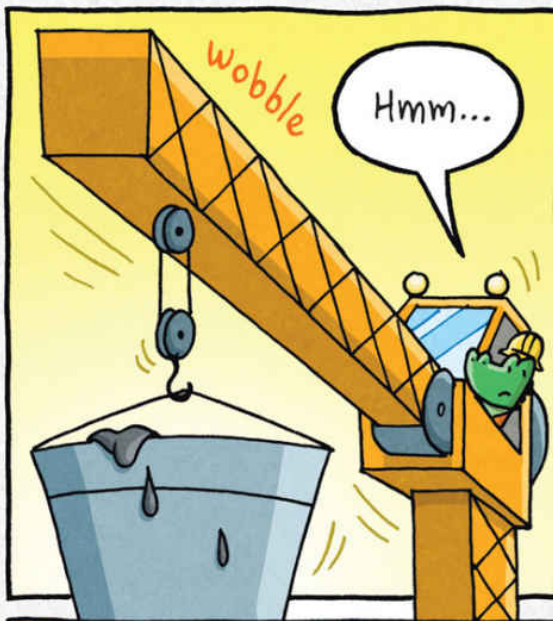
Plane? Don't you mean...
HELICOPTER?

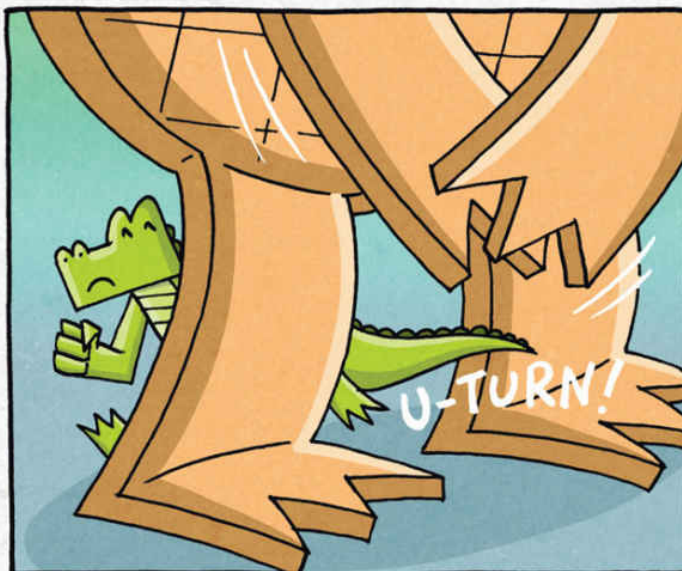
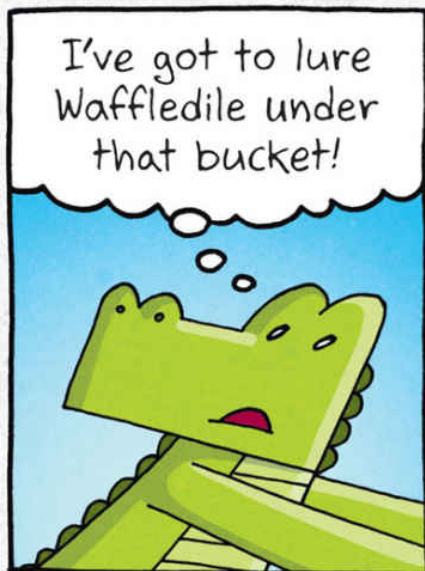


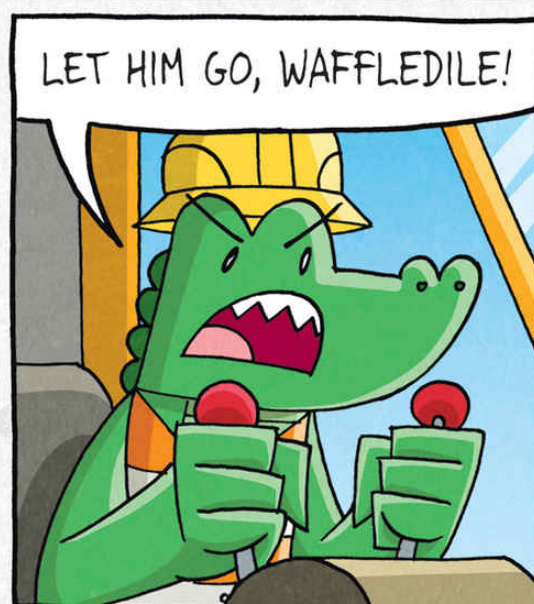
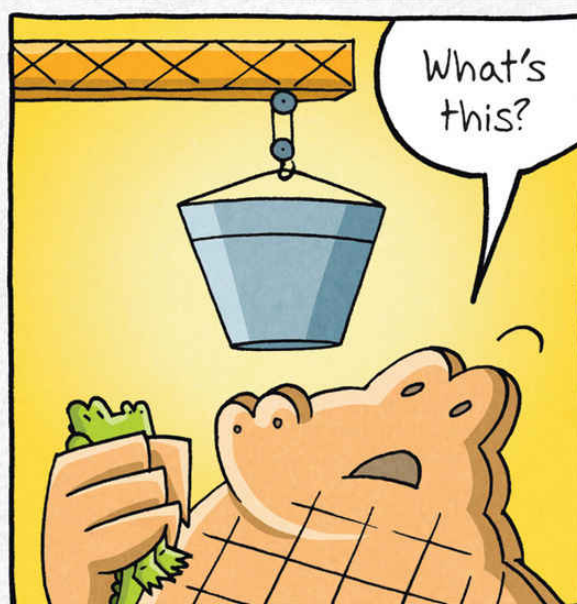
Come here, you! This is the perfect *recruitment* opportunity! *Every* villain will want to join my team if they see me on the news!

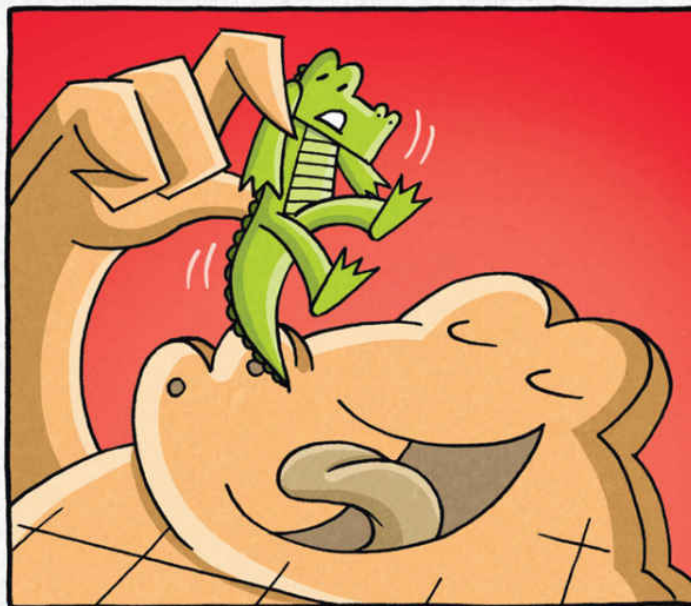
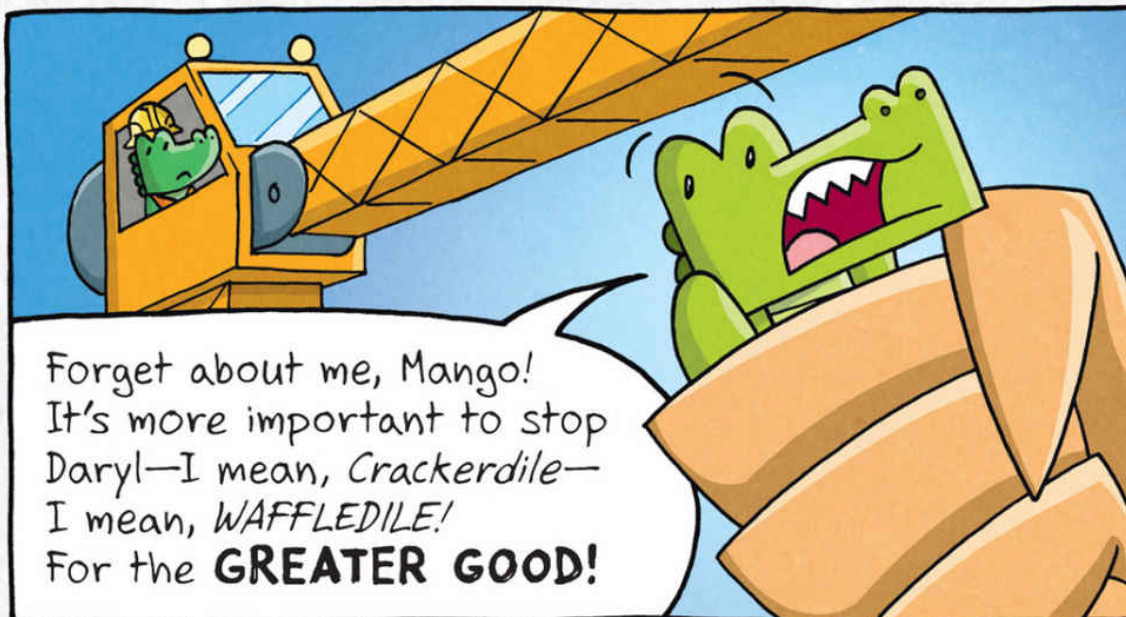


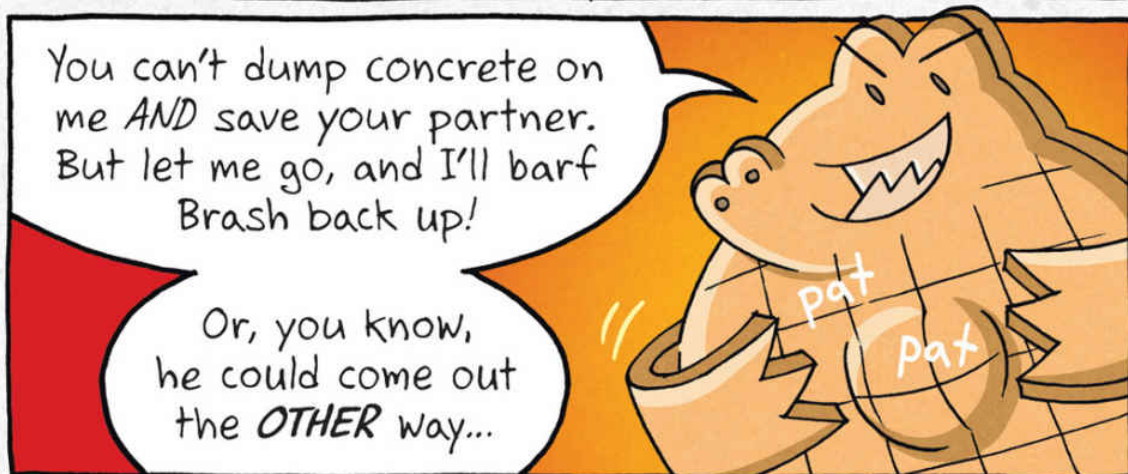
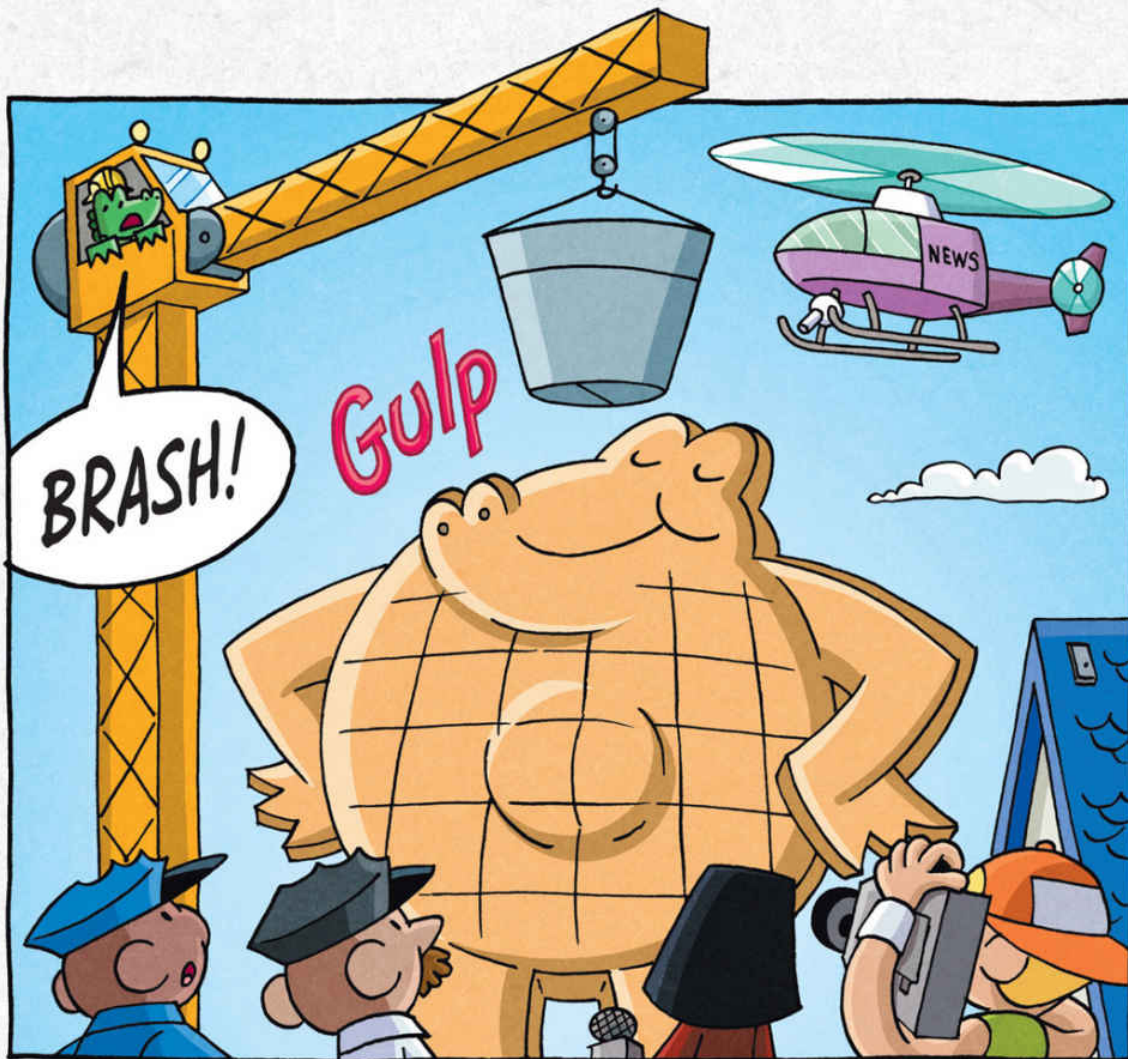


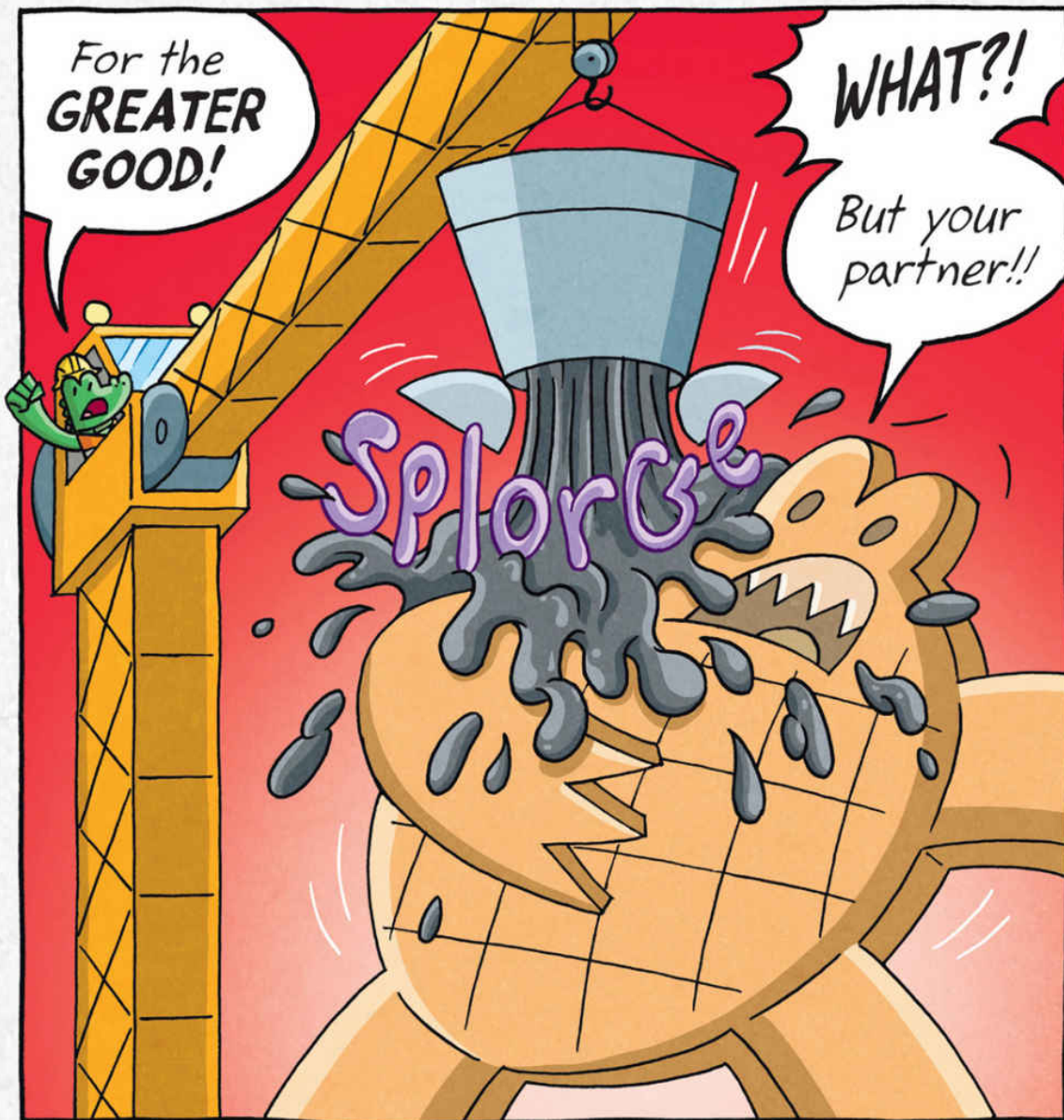


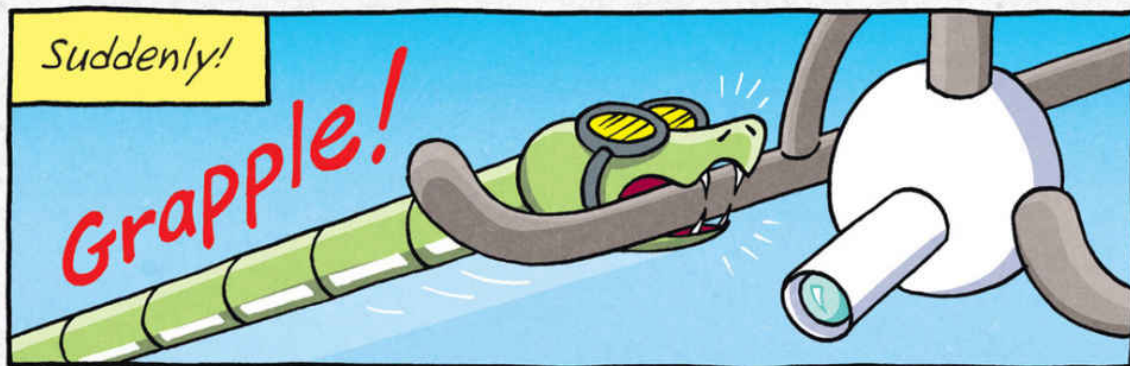
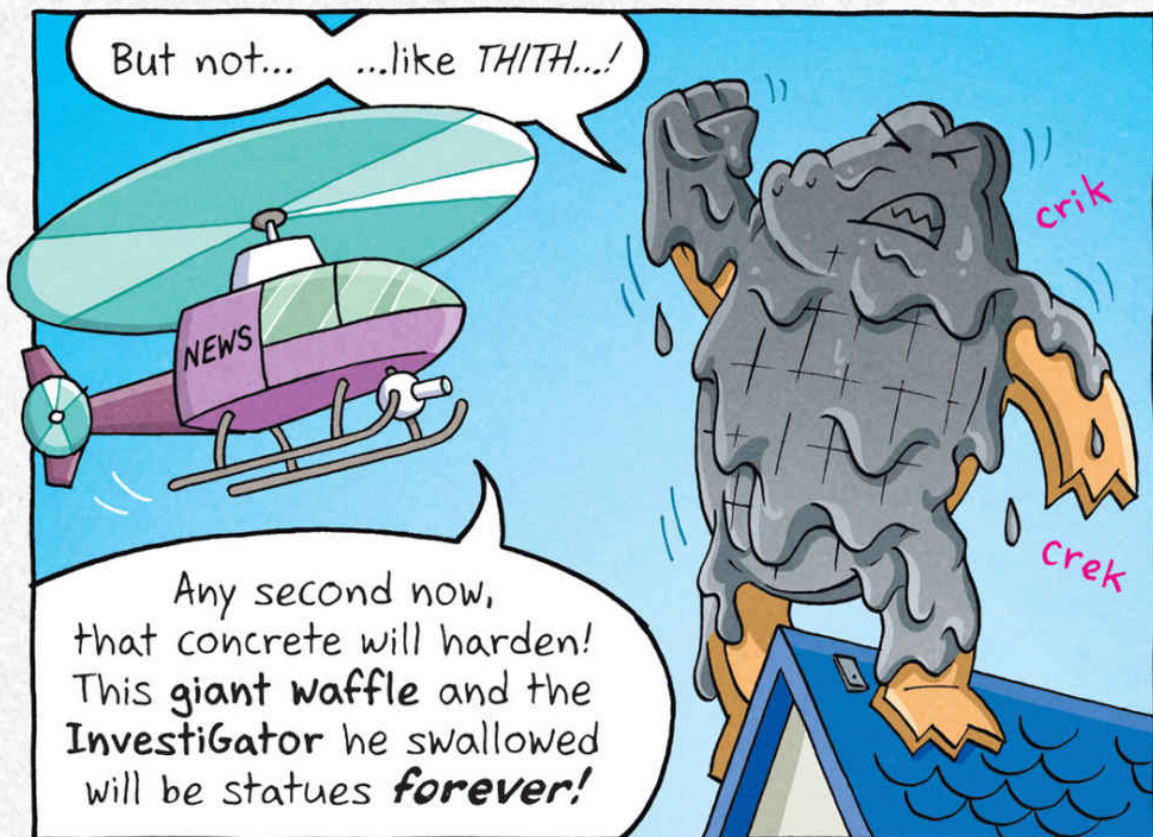
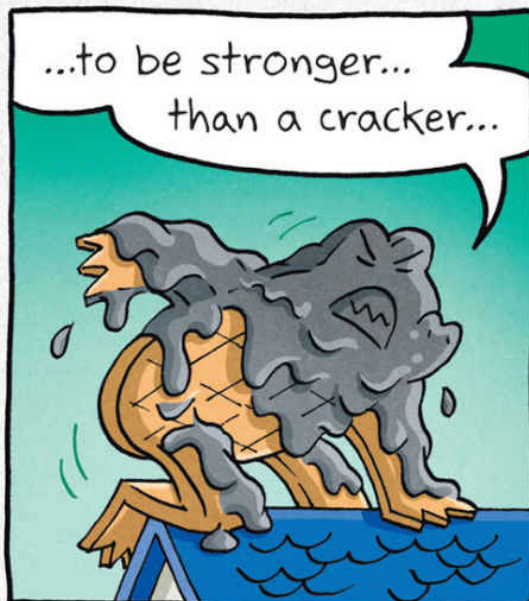




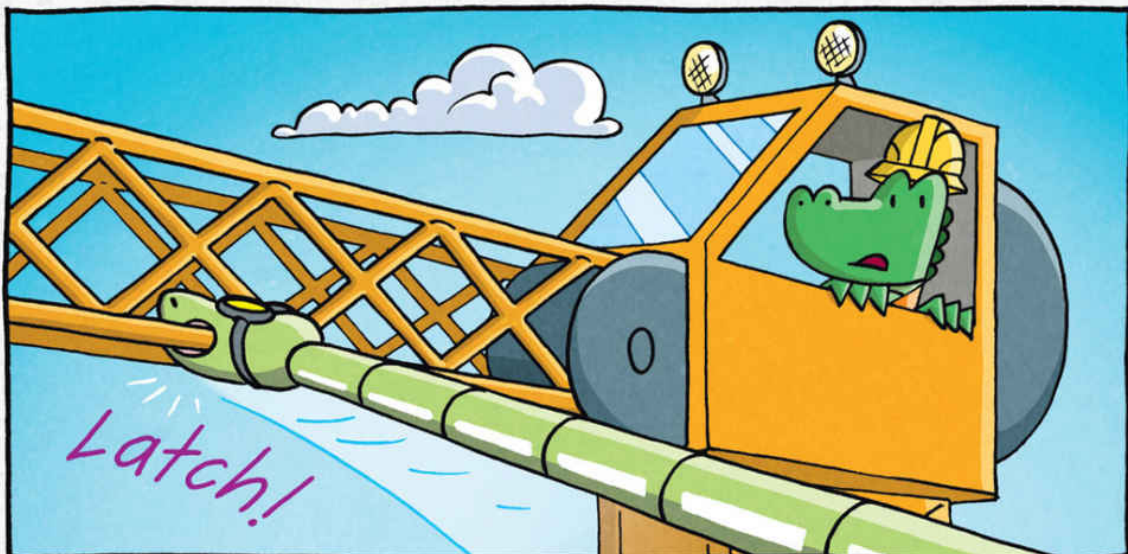
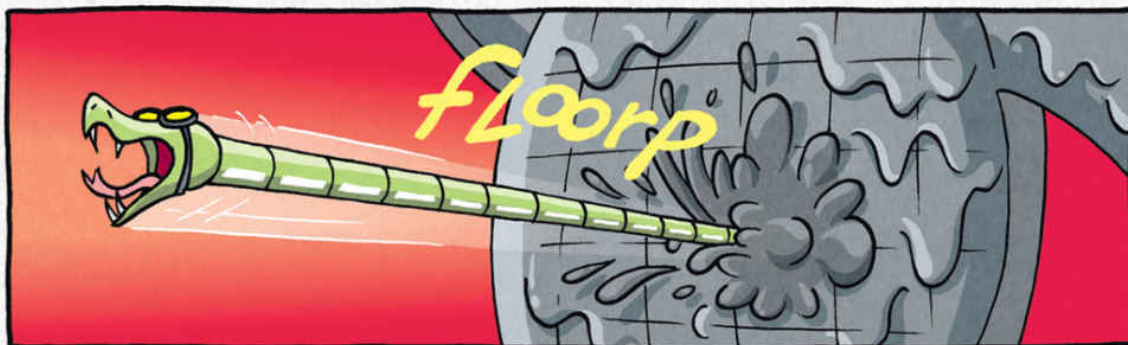


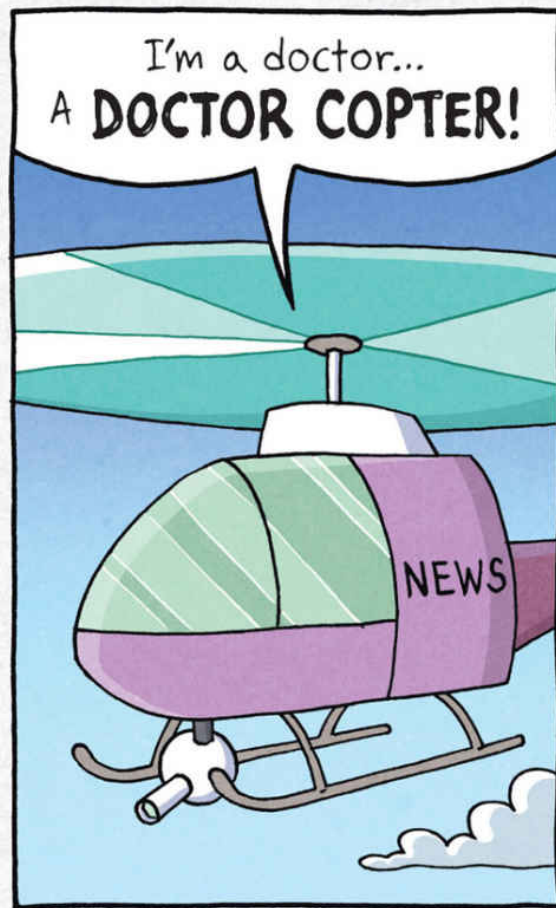






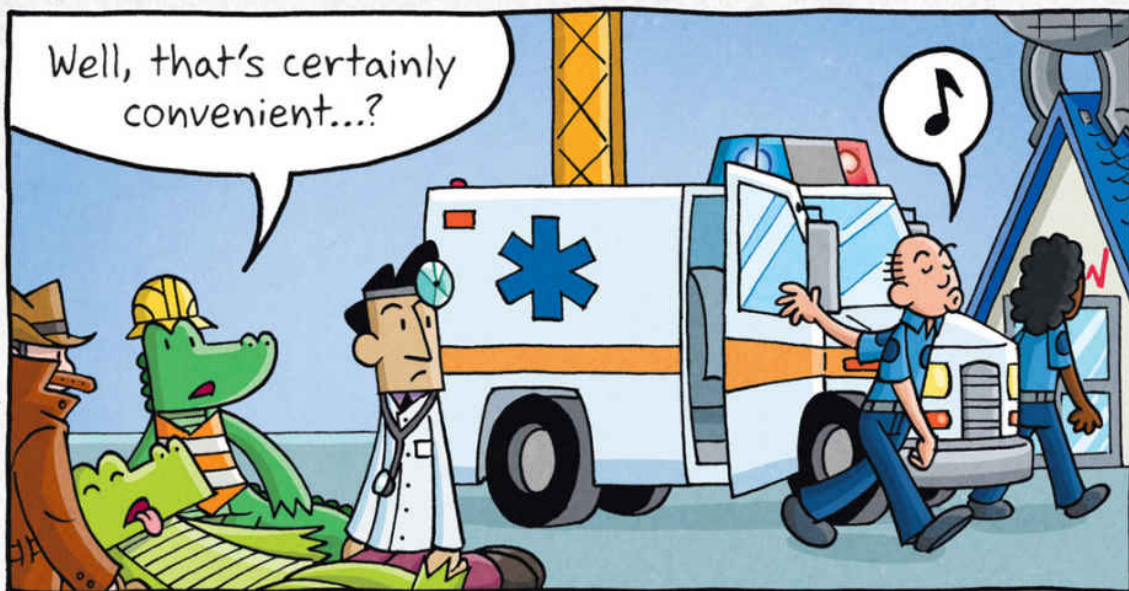
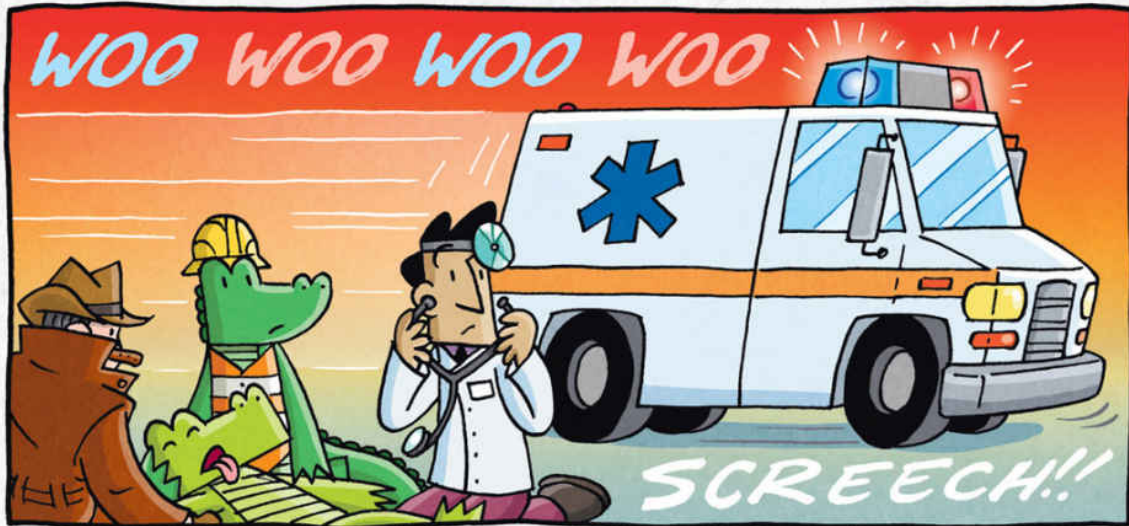






*Translation: "I can't move!"









Why are we still under arrest? Haven't you realized the giant waffle on the roof is the one you were after?



He's the one that stole that money and kidnapped the chicken! Even us teenagers figured that out!

Well, I guess that makes sense...



But I hope you kids learned your lesson!



You heard it here first, viewers! The **snake-armed man** turned out to be a good guy, the **stolen bank money** has been recovered, the **waffle** has turned to stone, and the **chicken** has, presumably, been eaten!

Hold on... Correction: Only the chicken that was on the **MENU** has been eaten, **NOT** the one from the Science Factory. For *Action News Now*, this is Cici Boringstories, signing off.



AAAAAAND...we're out.



You didn't say anything about our **news copter** transforming into a **brain surgeon**.

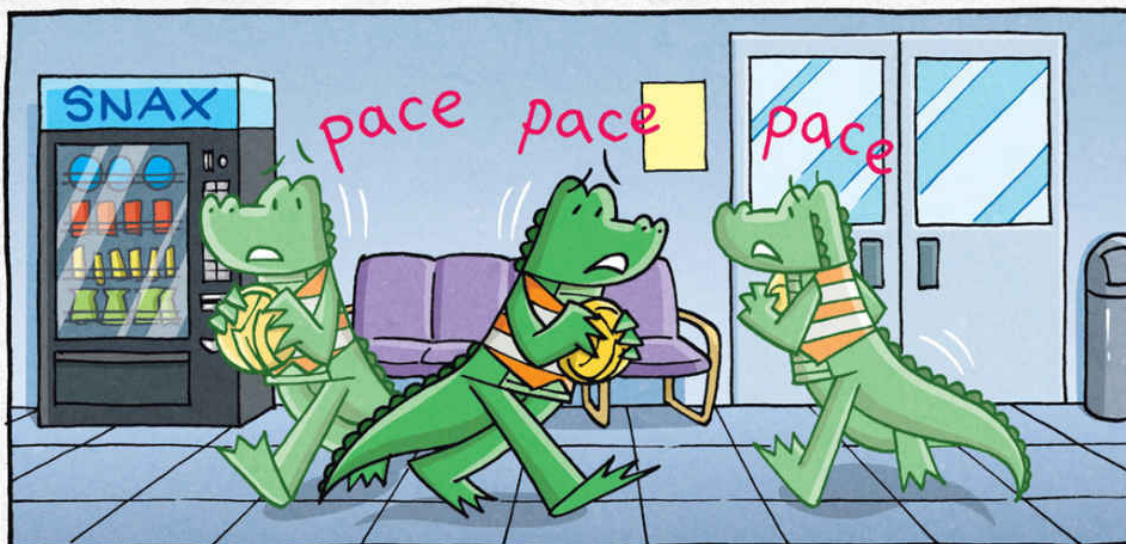


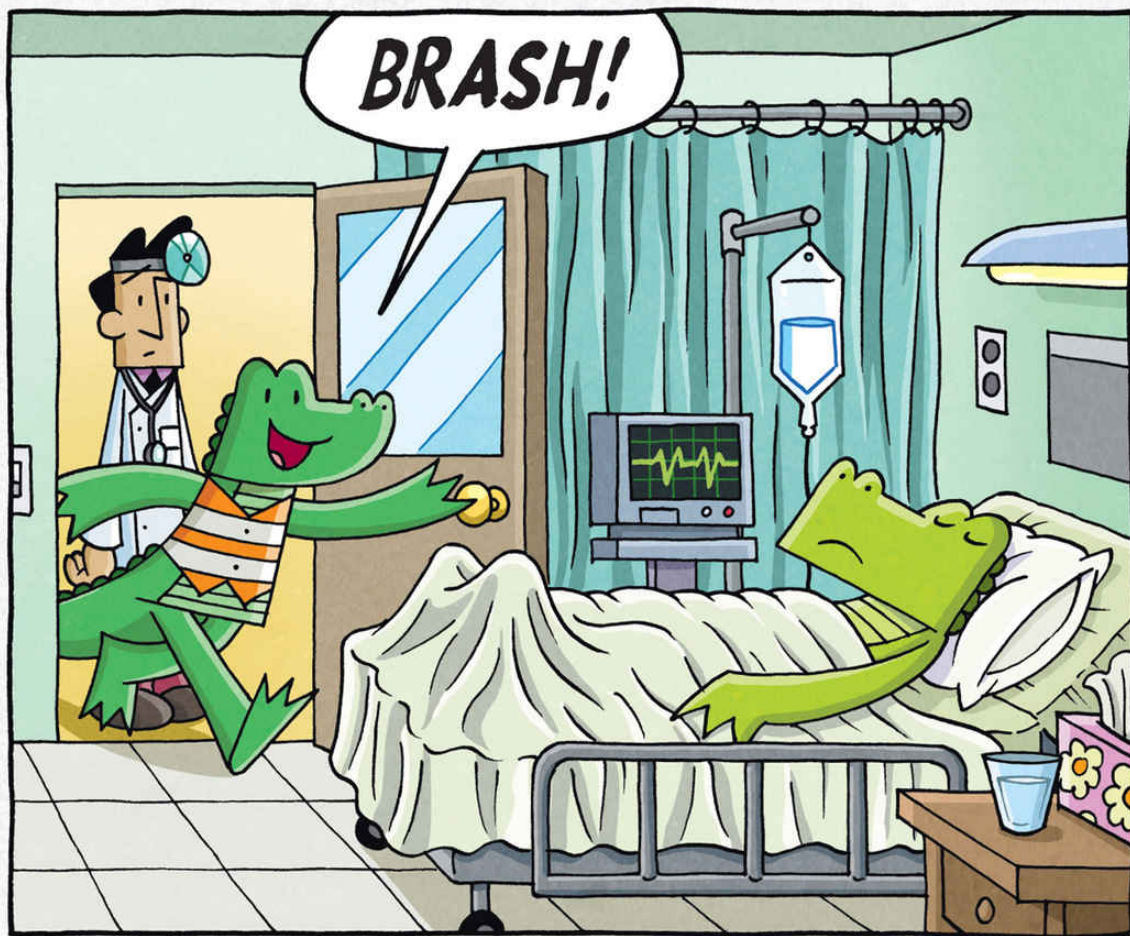
Oh, please. No one's going to believe **THAT**.

It sounds like something straight out of a comic book!



Chapter 19





Brash is in perfect health, but there must be something in his **mind** blocking him from **regaining consciousness**.

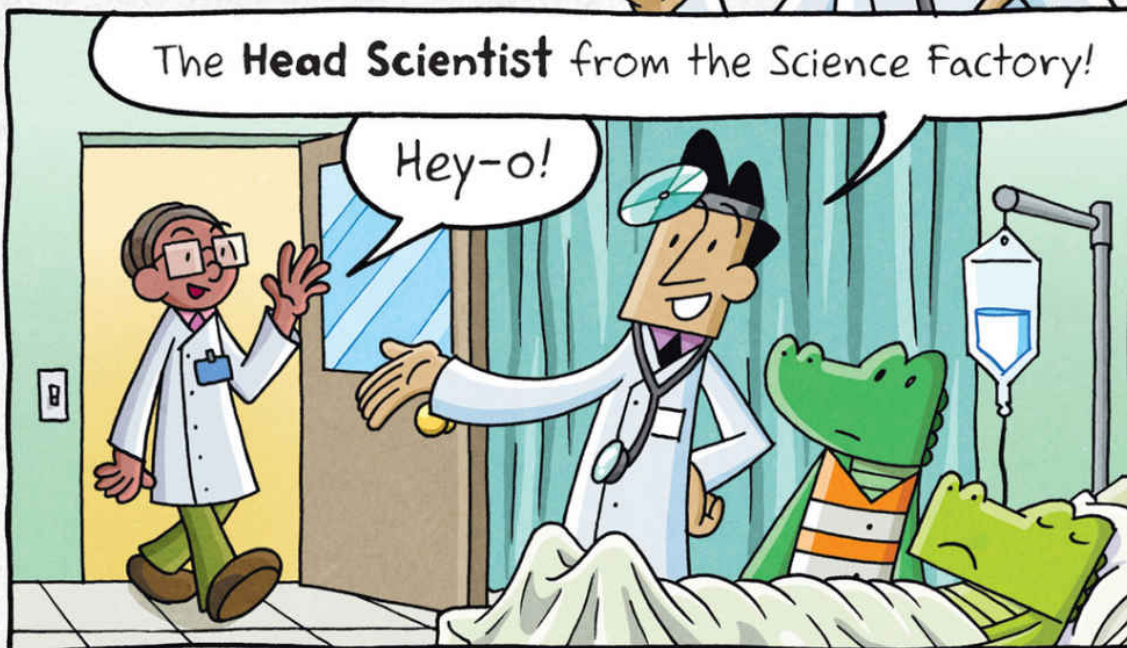


But fear not! I, **Dr. Jake Hardbones, Brain Surgeon**, will do *everything* in my power to cure Brash's *cranial condition*.

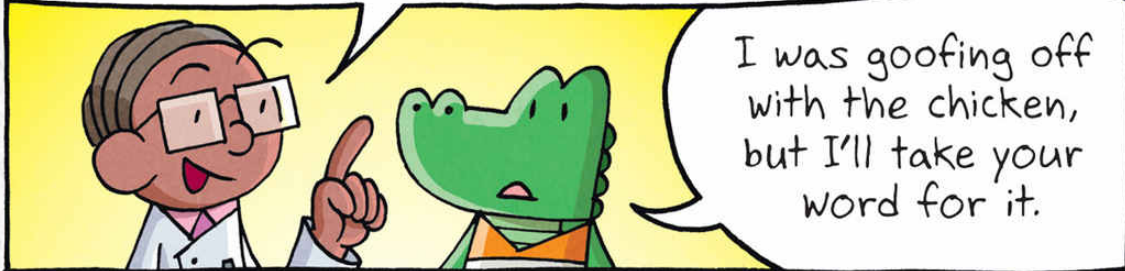
In fact, I've even called in for backup!



The **Head Scientist** from the Science Factory!

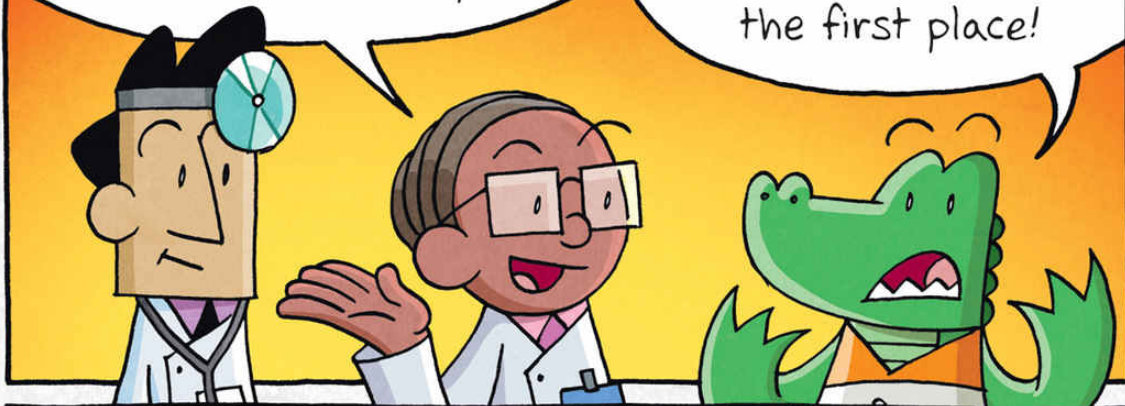


If you'll recall, way back on page 57, I had the idea to invent a device that can **harness the consciousnesses** of the plumber and the snake, to aid in the separation of their bodies.

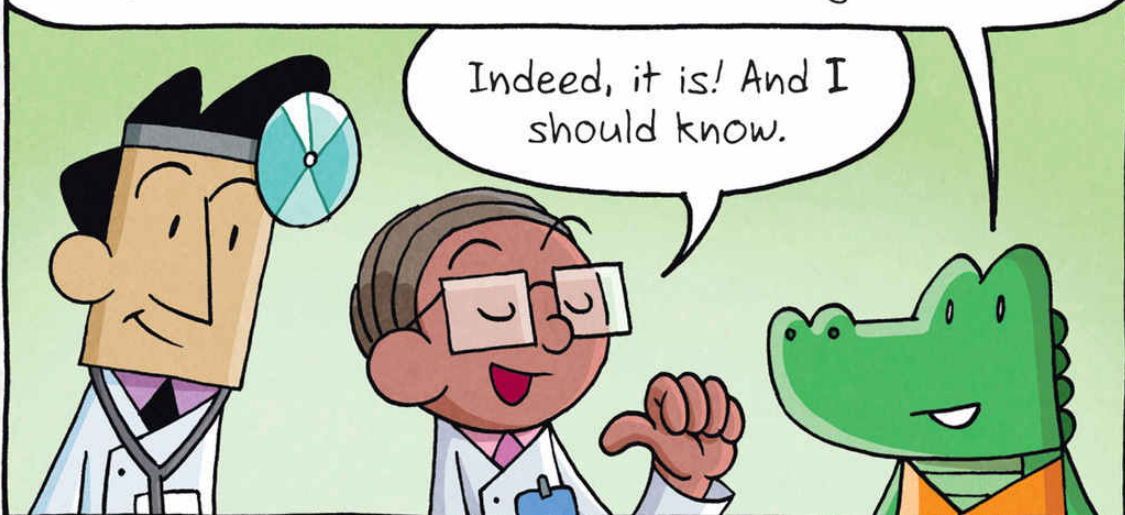


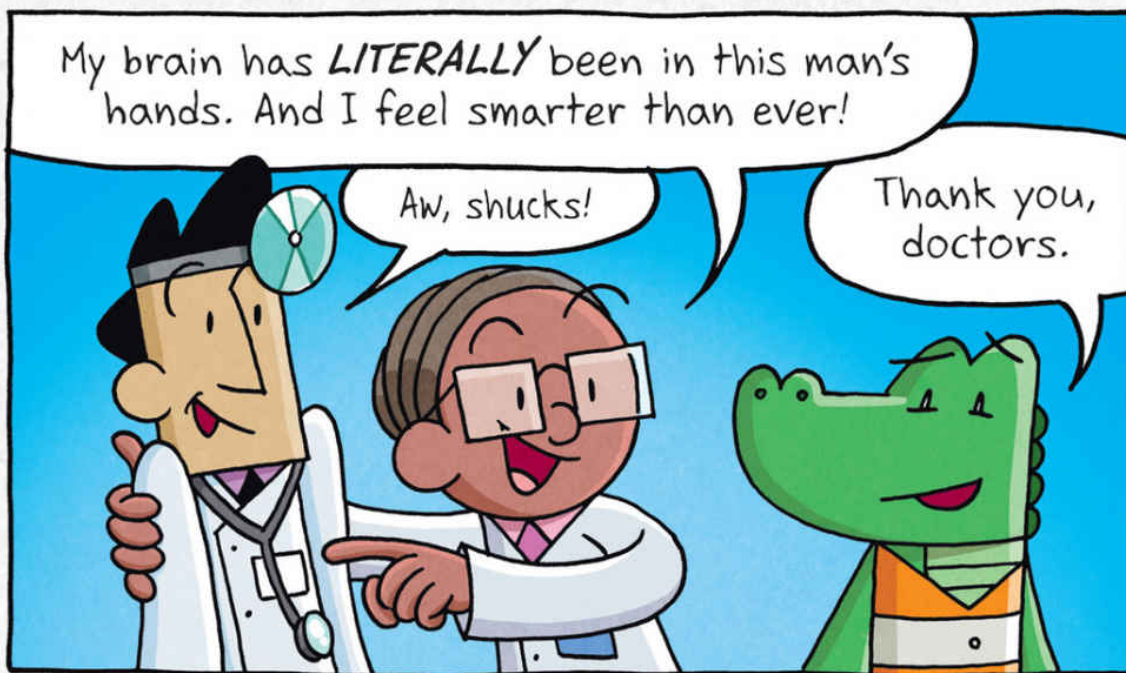
I am positive that if Dr. Hardbones and I put our minds together, we can use that technology to get Brash to wake up.

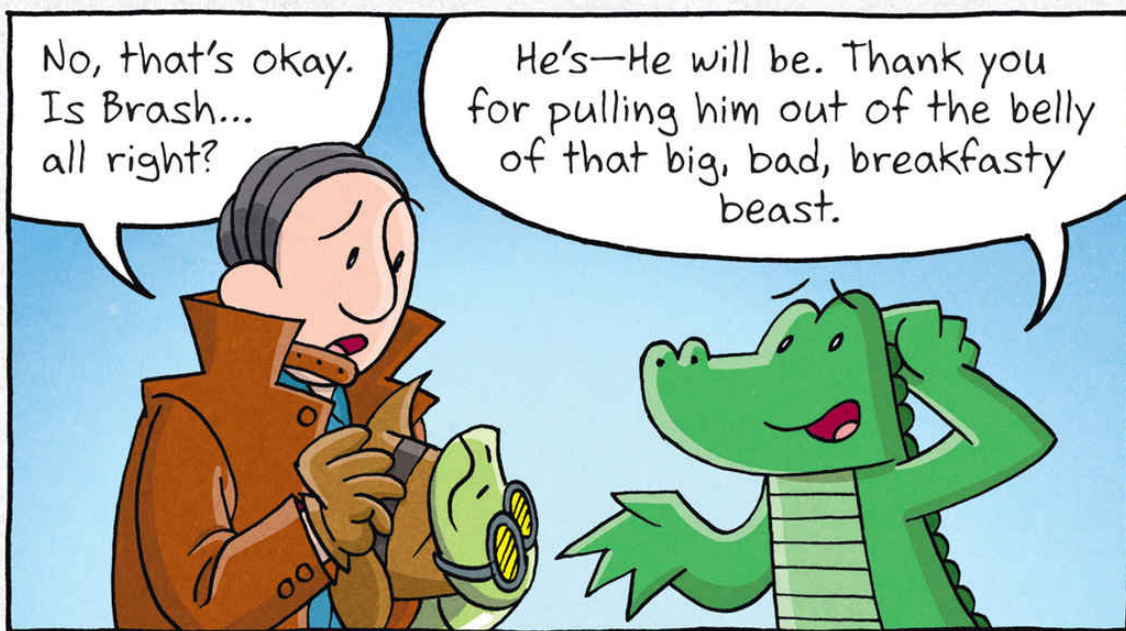
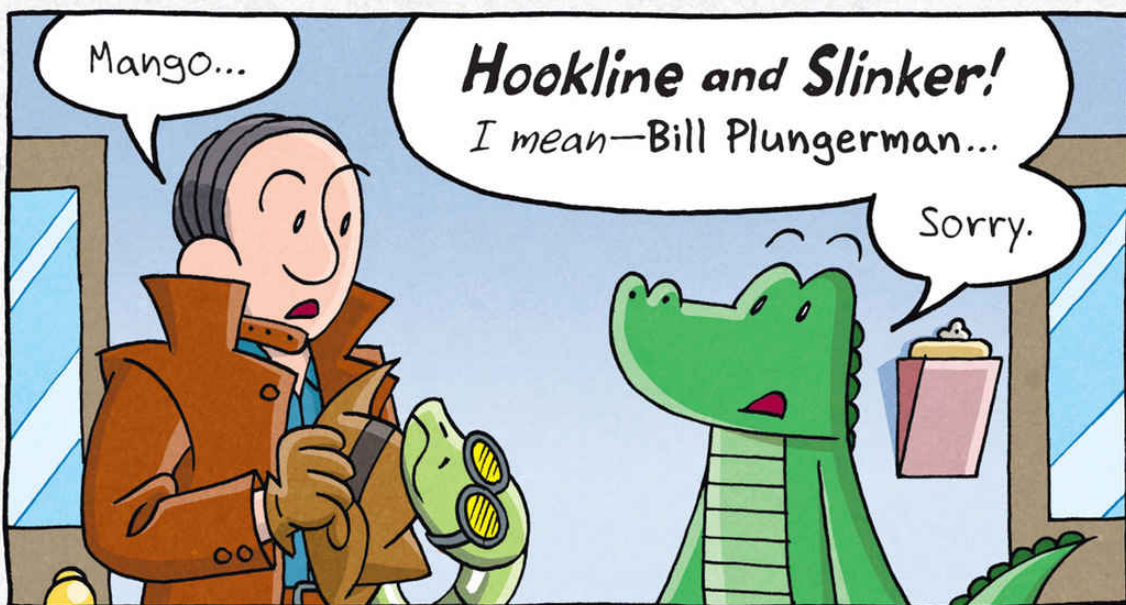
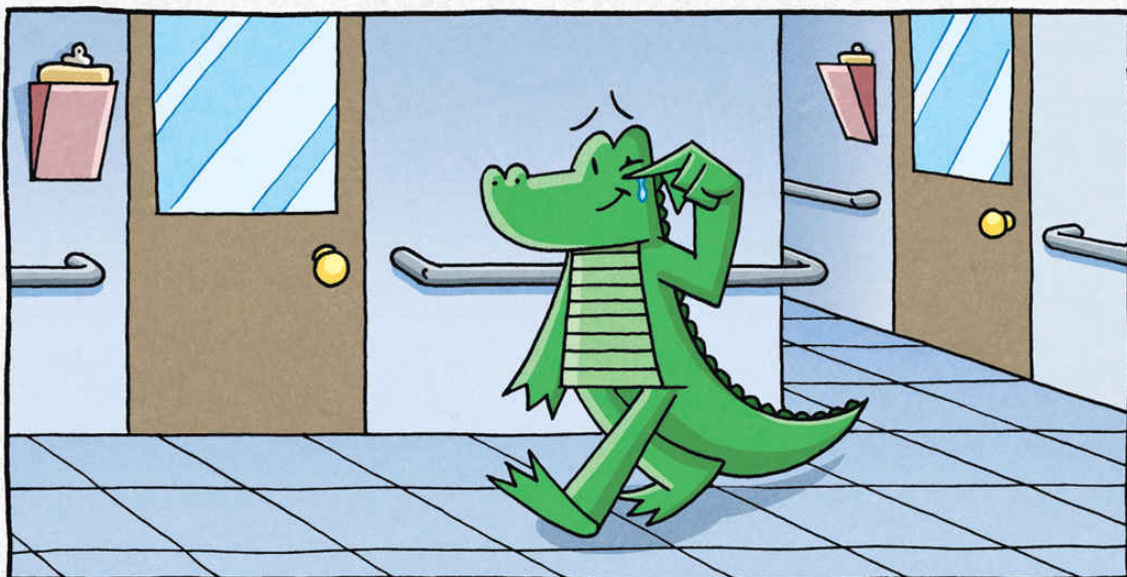
Just don't **ACTUALLY** put your minds together, because that's how this mess started in the first place!



Well, it sounds like Brash's brain is in good hands.







Well, thanks to the **InvestiGators**, I'm no longer under that waffle's *OR* Slinker's control. And now I know how to snap out of the hypnosis, so I'll be able to keep from losing my head again.



There you are! So *THIS* is where everyone went!

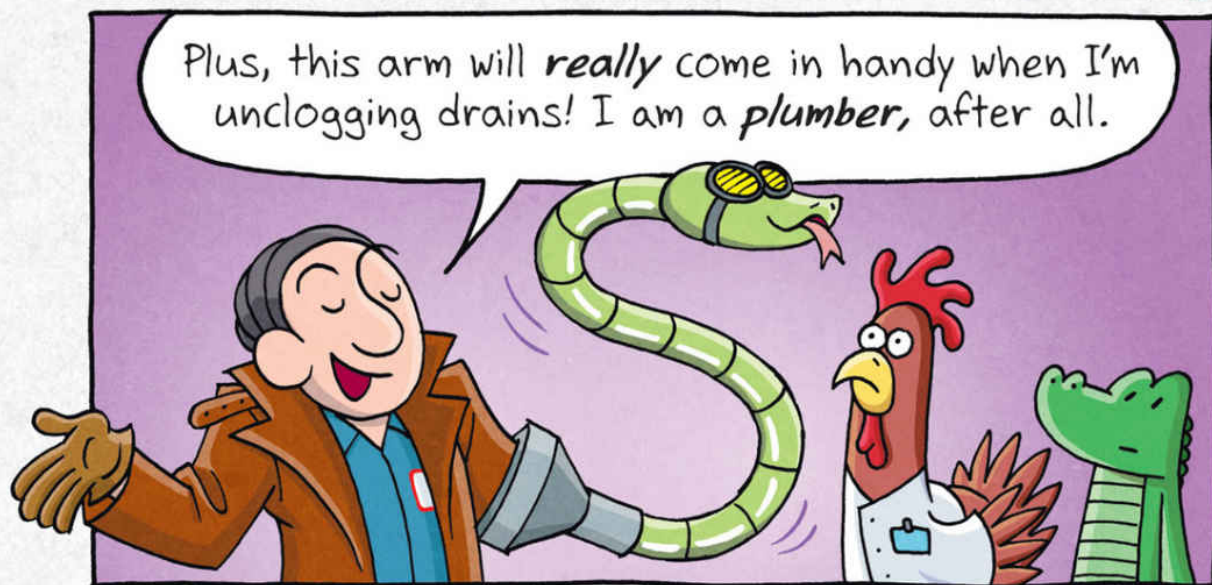
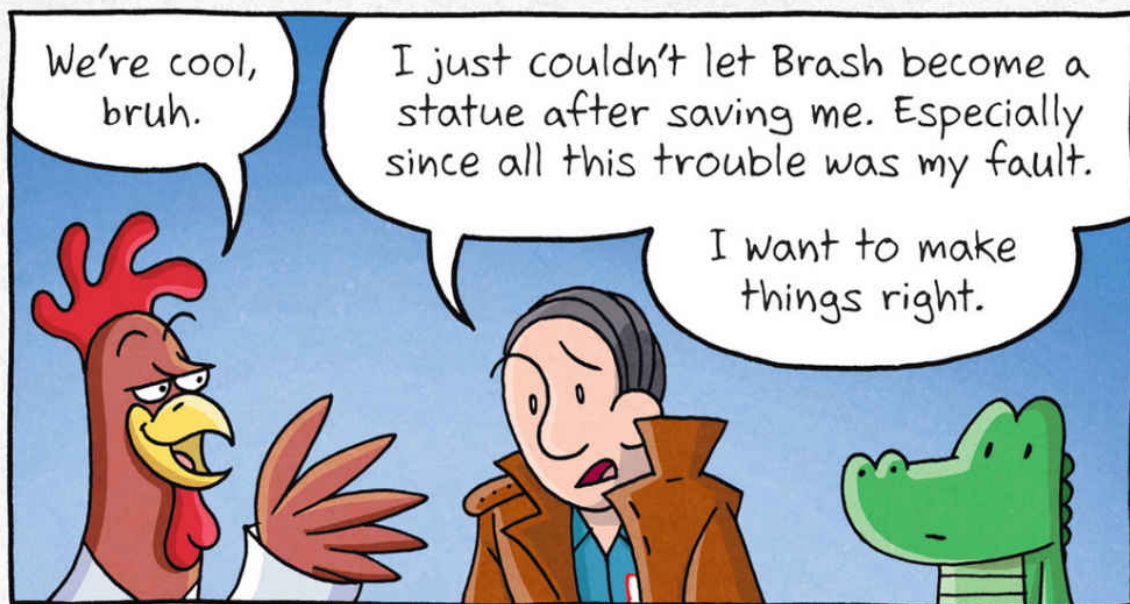
Dr. Doodledoo! Did you get lost?

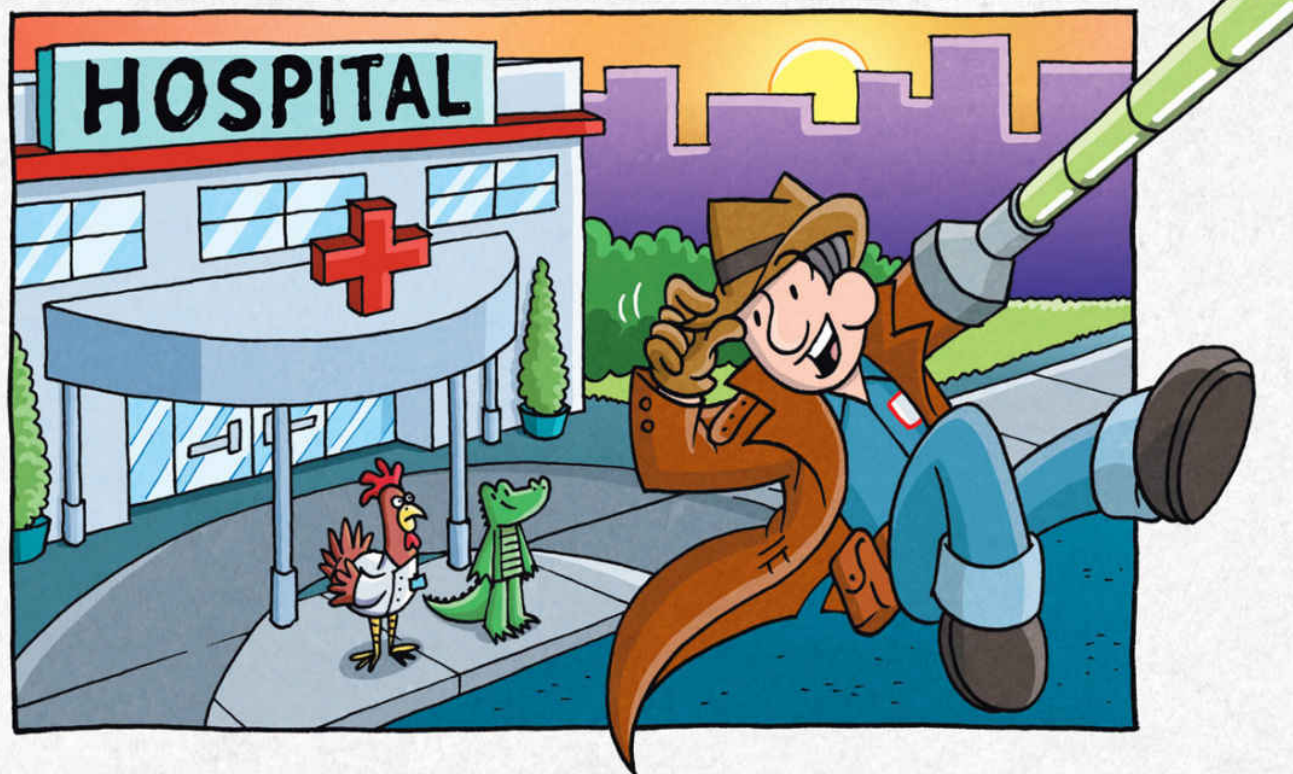
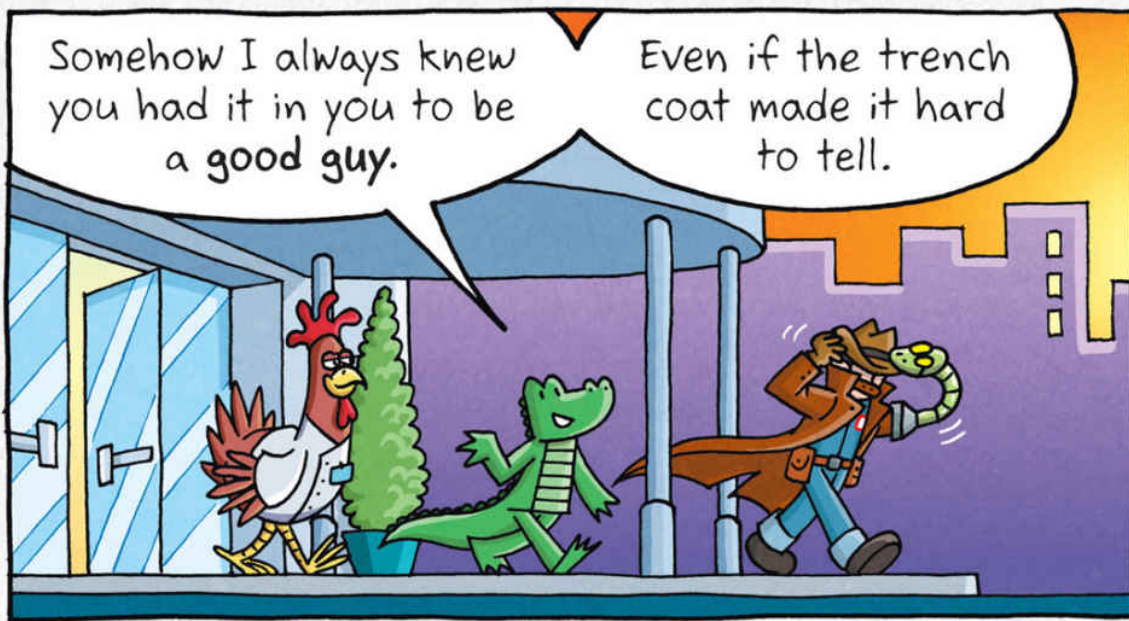


This dude took off into the air when we were on our way to the Science Factory! It took me this long to catch up. I can't fly, you know. I'm a **chicken**!

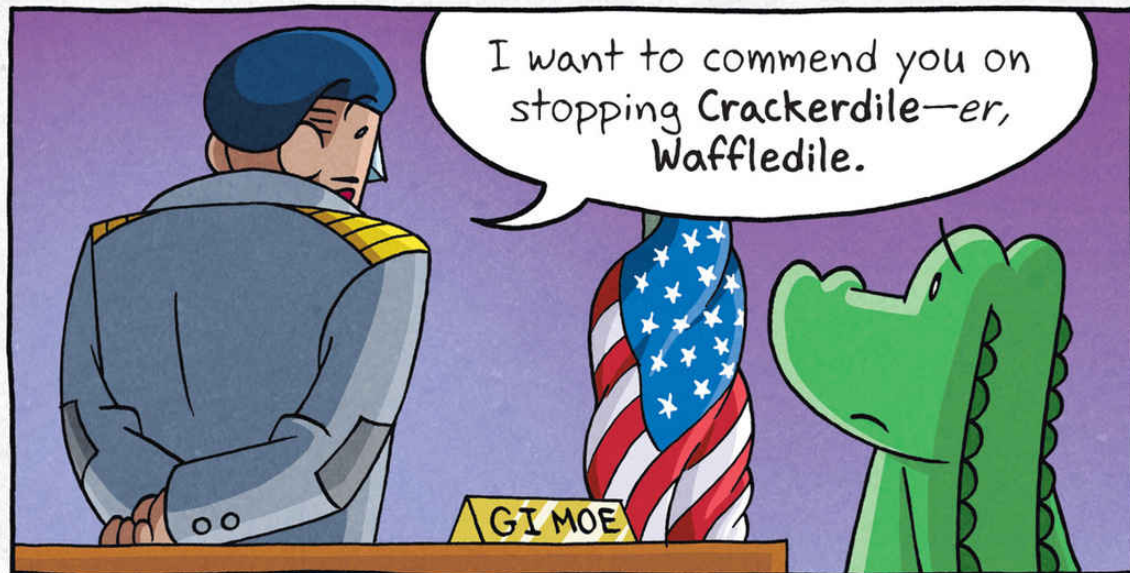
Sorry about that. For giving you the slip, I mean. Not sorry that you're a chicken.







Epilogue



Thank you, sir. But I still feel like Crackerdile *won*.
What he—I—did to Brash...

Don't be too hard
on yourself, Mango.
You were faced with
a tough decision,
and you made
the right call.



And while Brash is recovering, *YOU* are now S.V.I.T.'s
top agent. There's a lot of crime out there that
needs investigating.

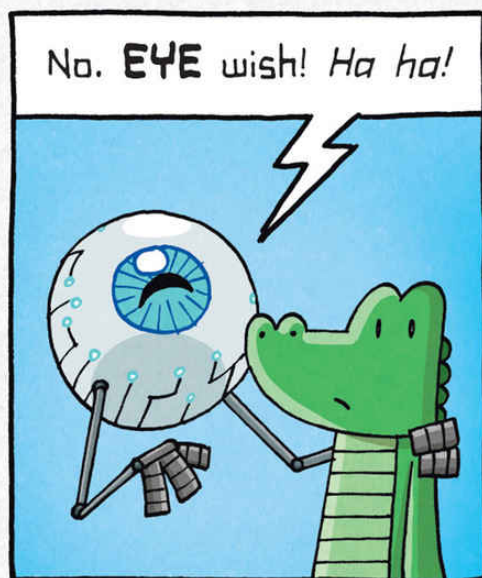
TOP AGENT?
I dunno, sir—

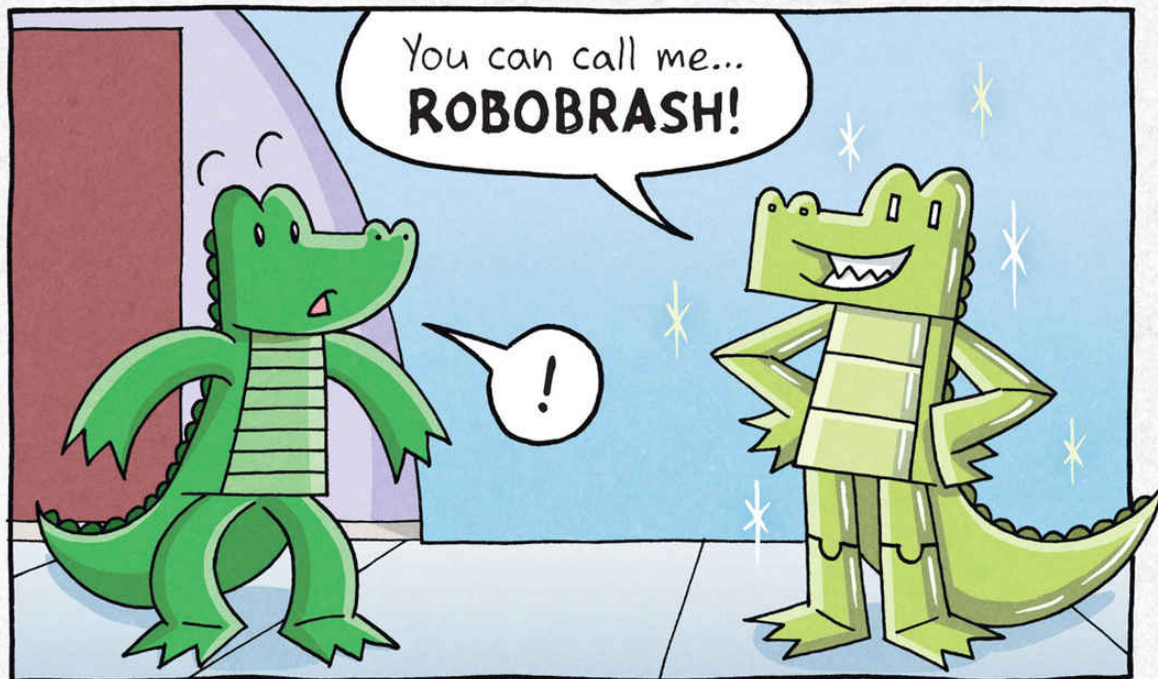


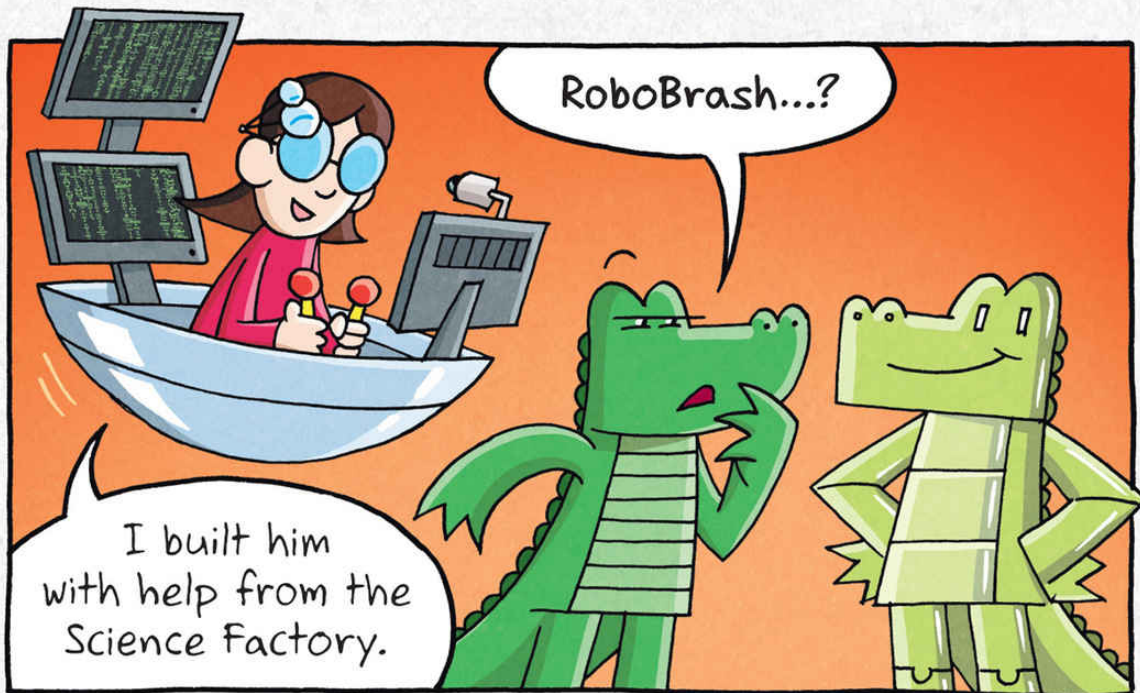
You won't be in the field alone, Mango. For the time
being, you'll be paired up with a *NEW* partner... Just
until Brash is back on his feet.

New...
partner?



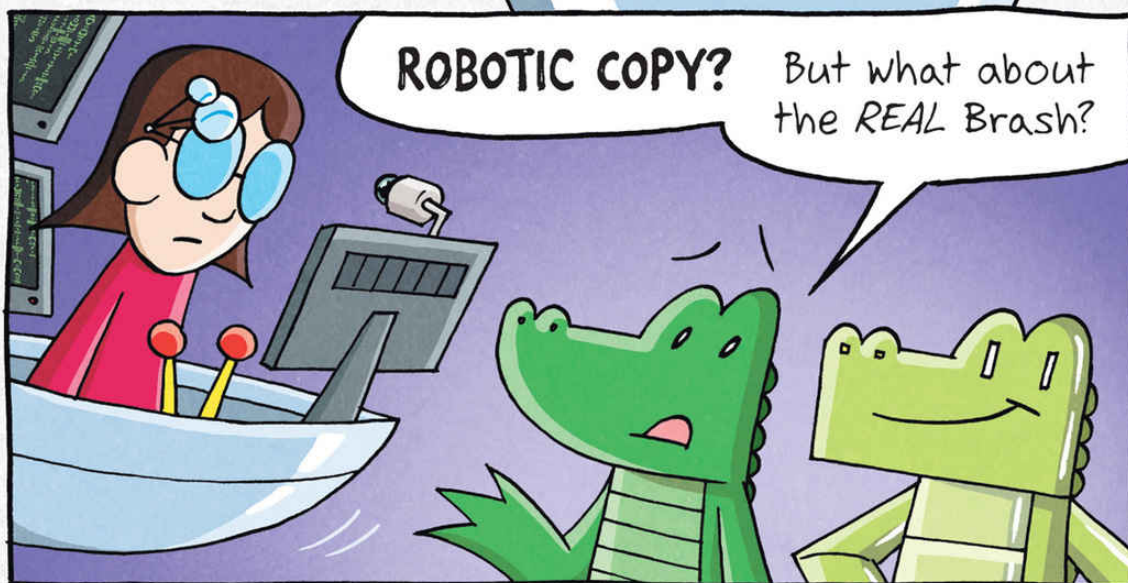


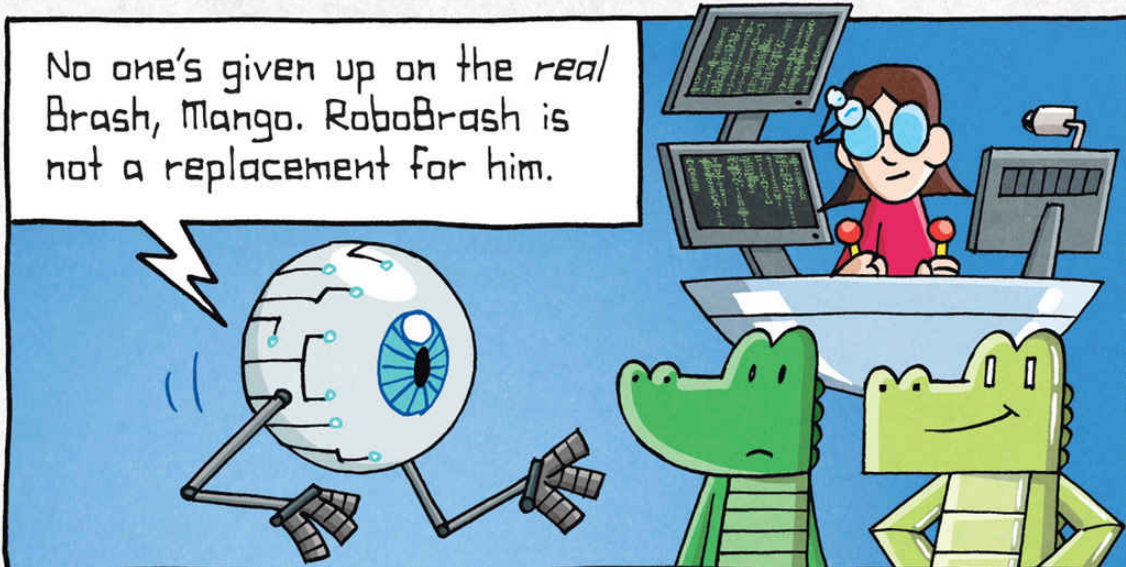


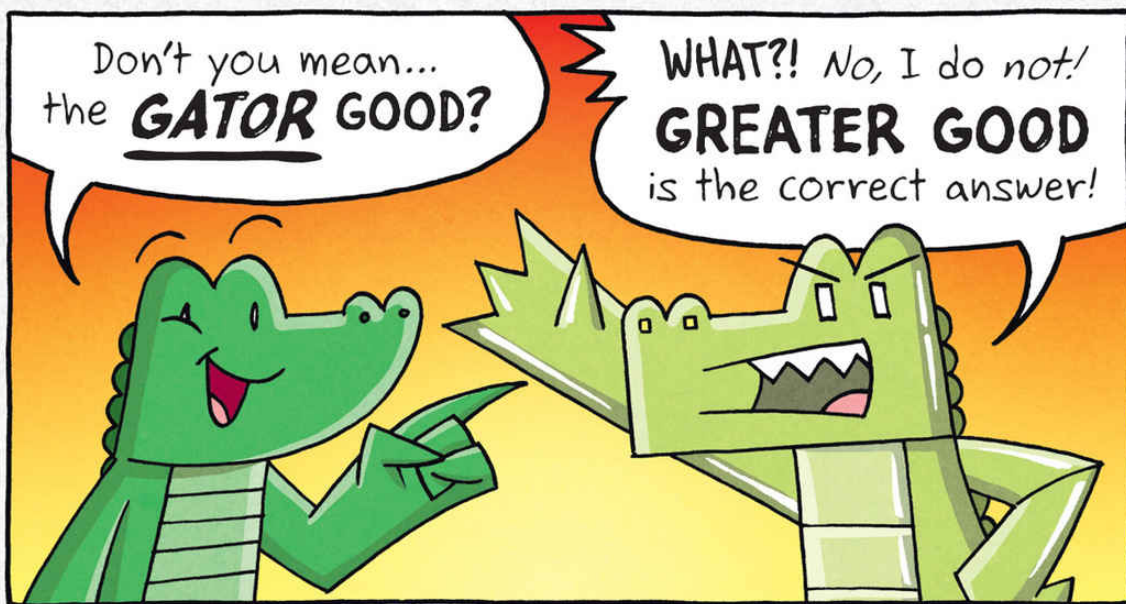
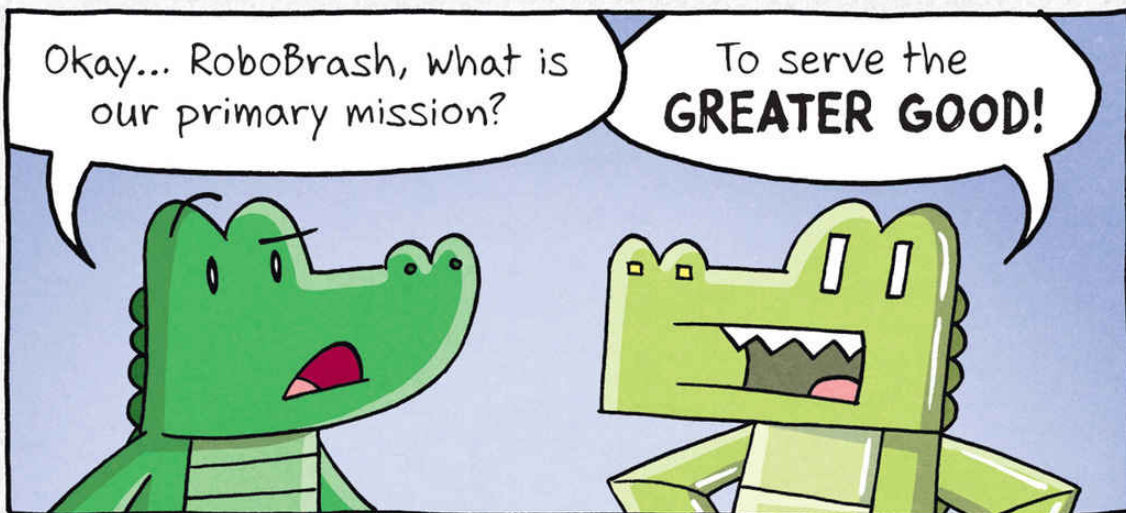
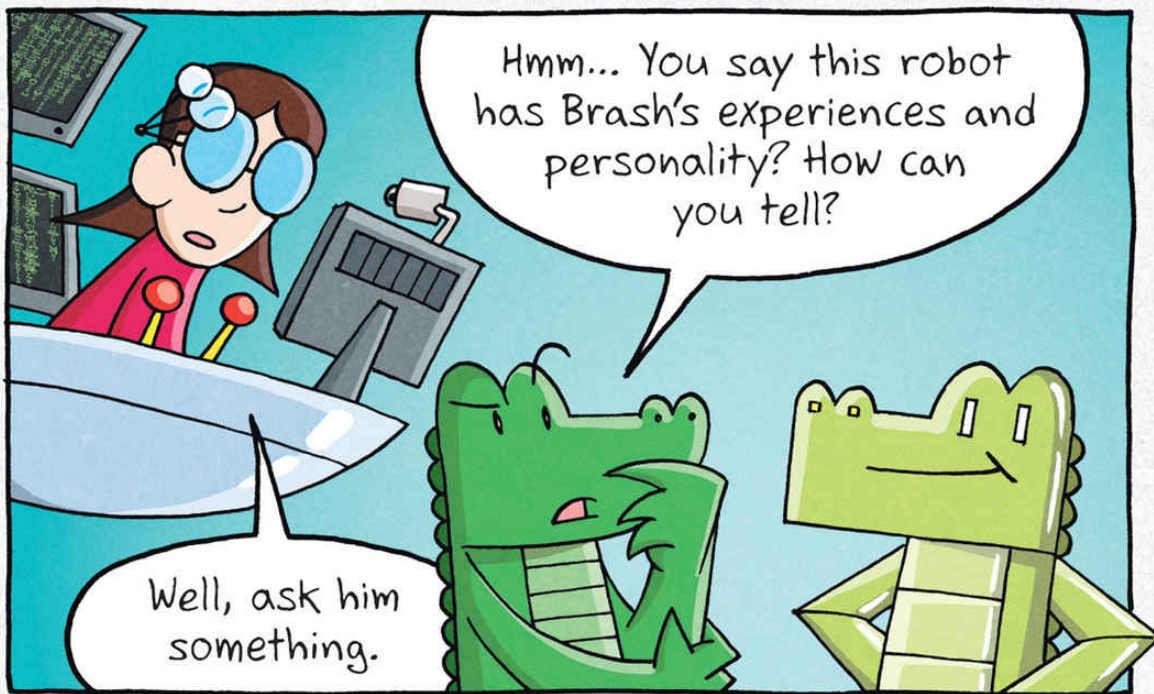


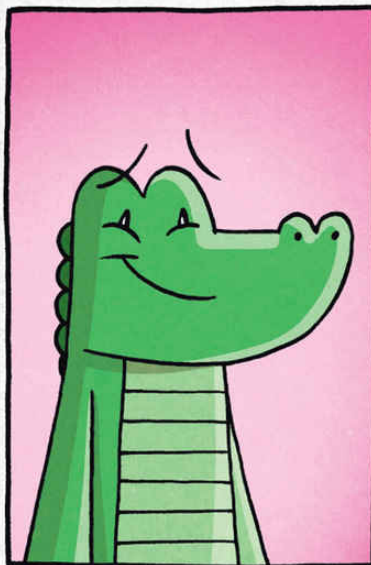
Even though Dr. Hardbones is still figuring out a way to wake up Brash, the Head Scientist was able to send me **downloads** of most of Brash's personality and experiences.

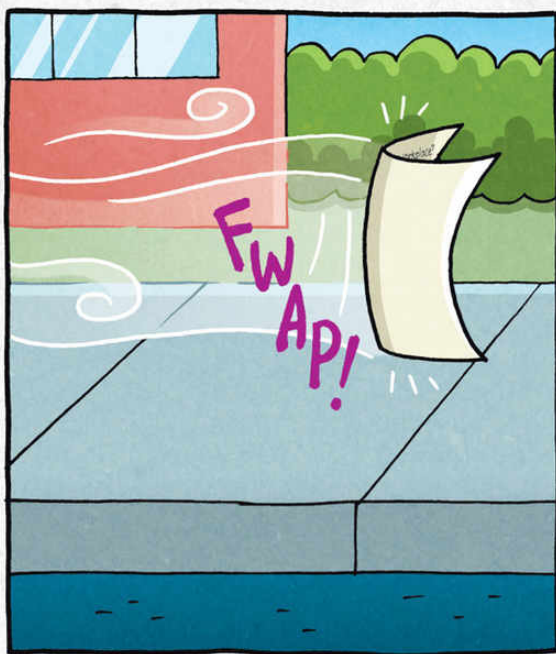
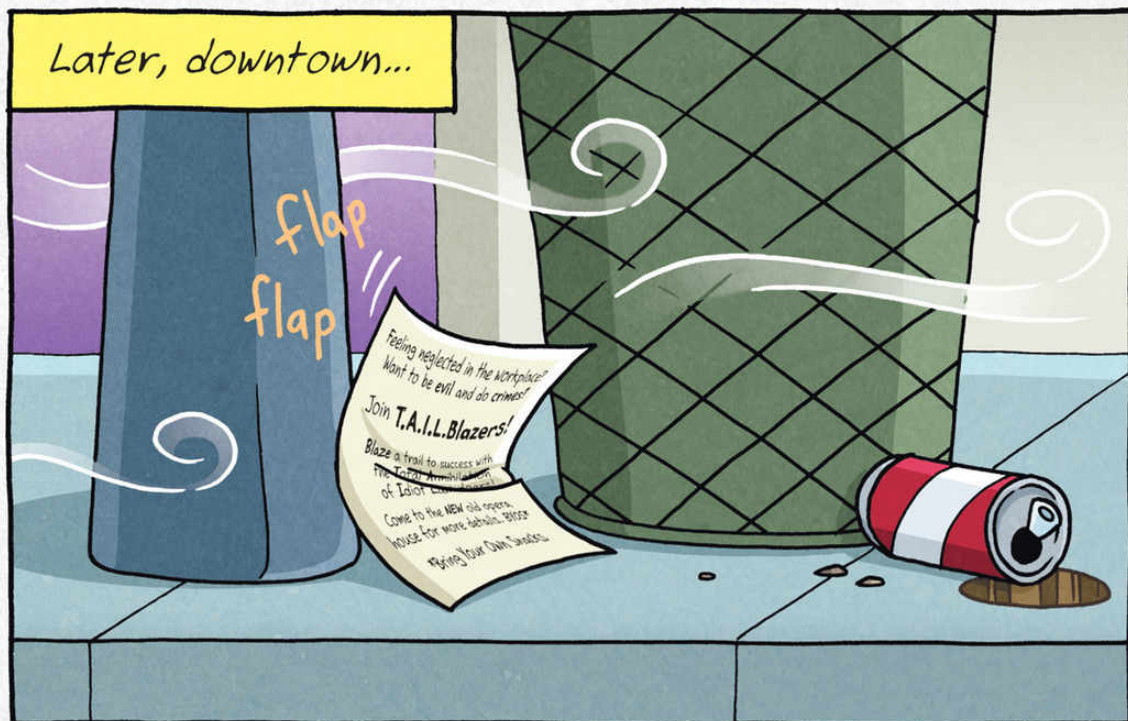
Then I uploaded them into this **robotic copy** I made out of spare parts.

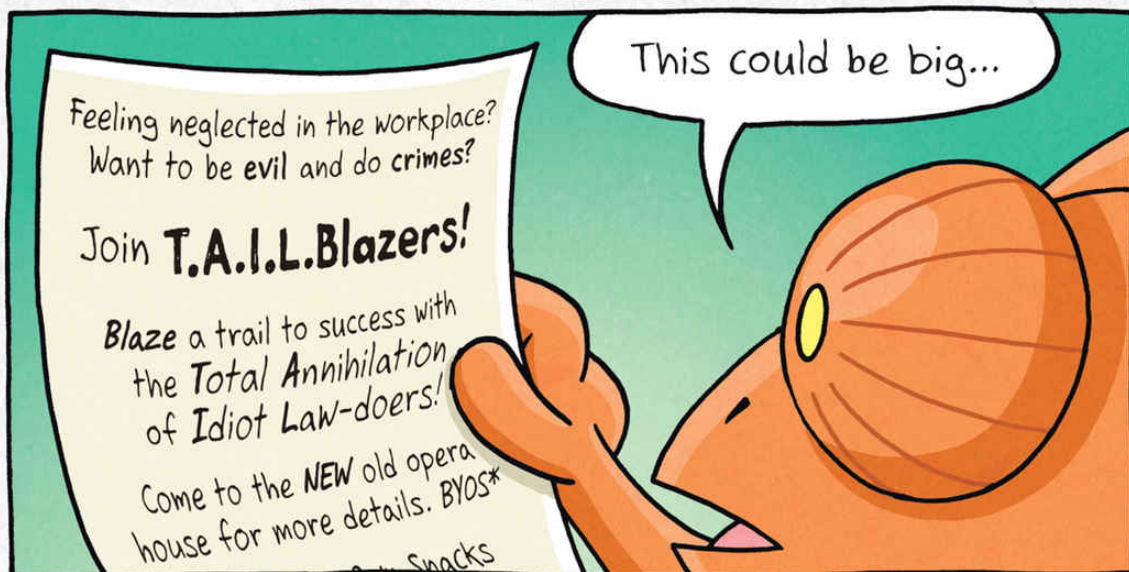








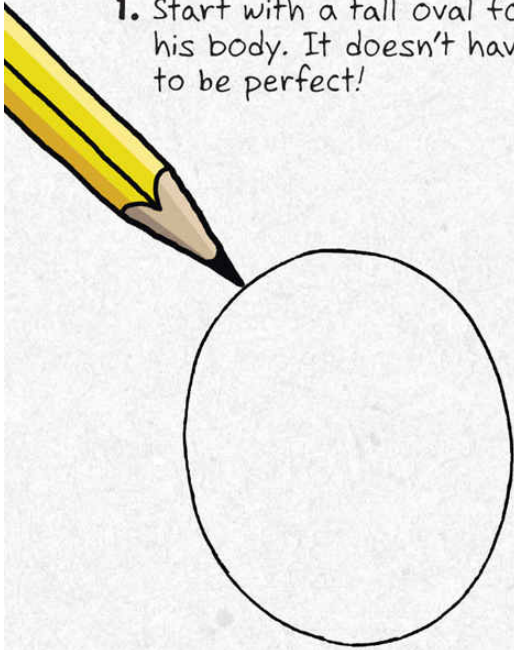




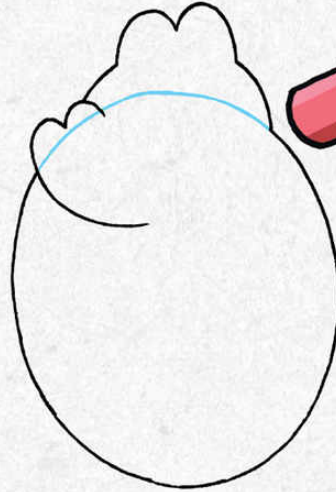
INVESTIGATORS

How to draw WAFFLEDILE

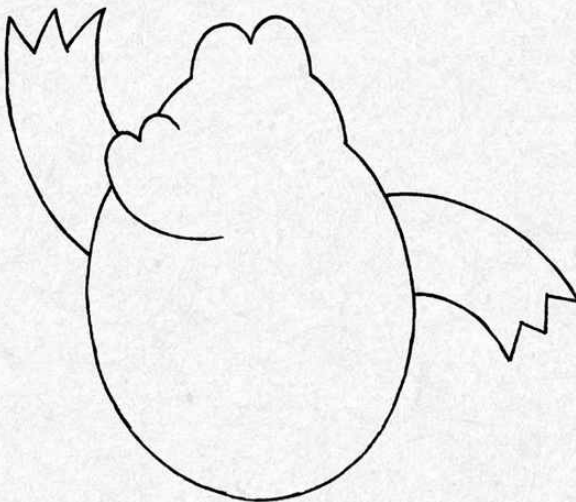
1. Start with a tall oval for his body. It doesn't have to be perfect!



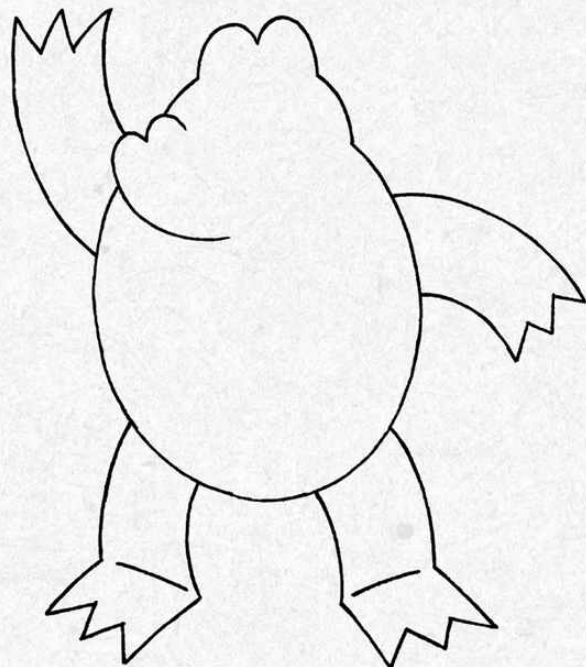
2. Add some big curves for his forehead, with some smaller loops for his snout. Then erase the line where his head overlaps his body (shown in blue).



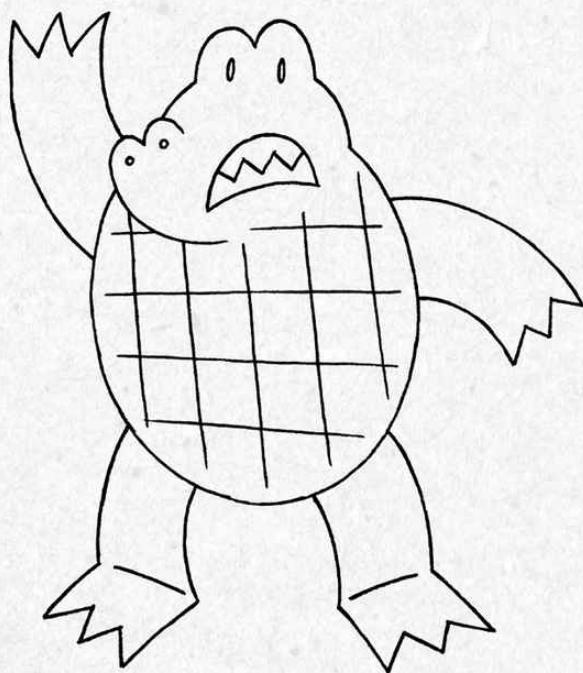
3. Draw arms with little triangles for fingers. Waffledile normally has three, but when he makes a fist you'll also see his thumb.



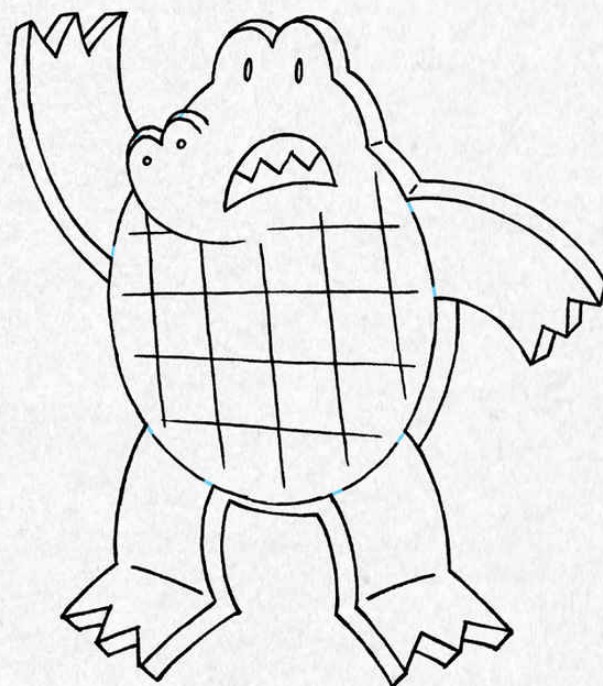
4. Next, add legs, with more triangles for toes. Include lines to show where his feet bend at the ankle.



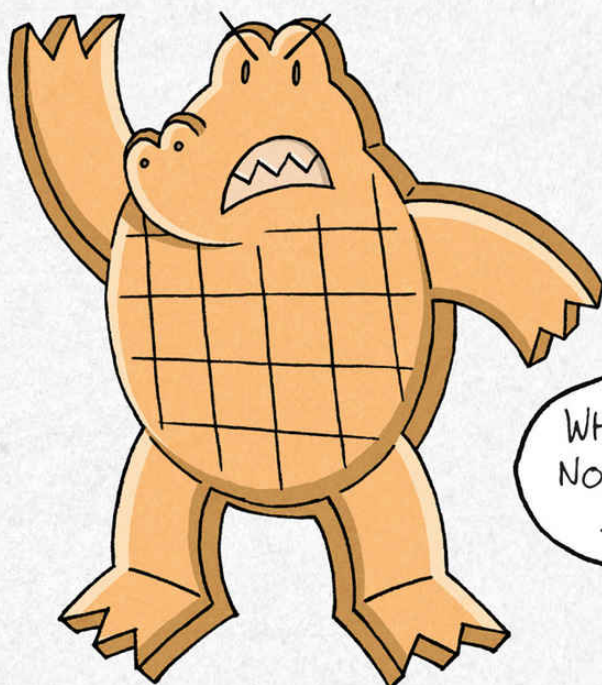
5. Add details like eyes, nostrils, a mouth with pointy teeth, and a grid for a waffle pattern.



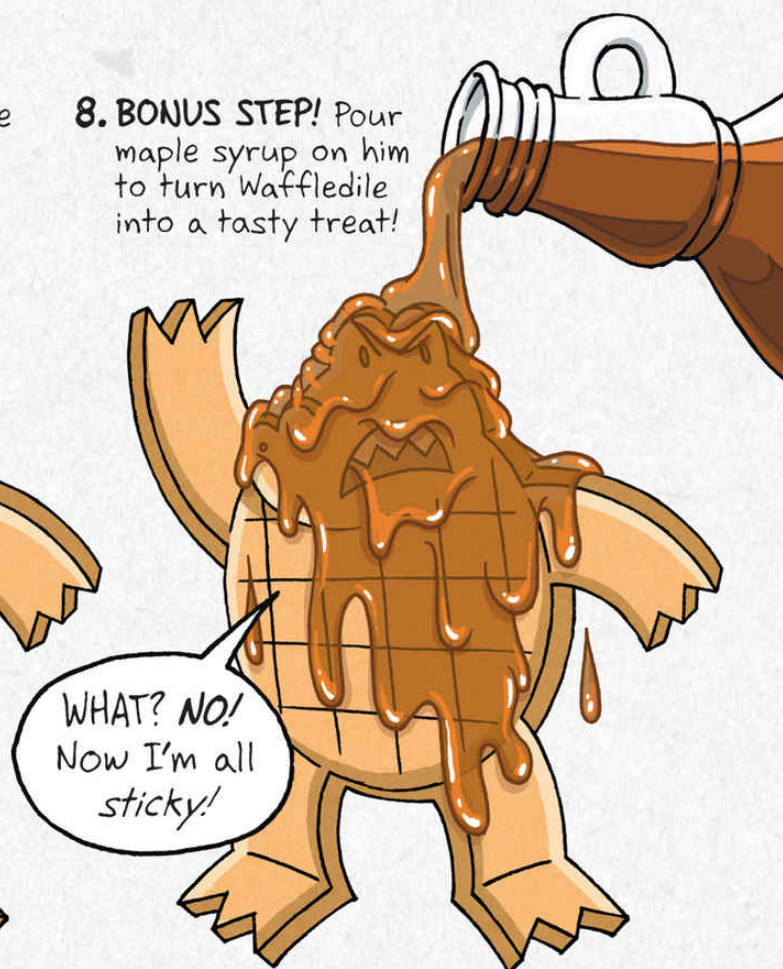
6. Draw lines around one side of his nose, head, body, arms, and legs. This will make him look 3D but also flat! Erase a tiny bit of the lines where his arms and legs connect to his body.



7. Finally, color him in. And give him some angry eyebrows, because Waffledile's always mad about something!



8. BONUS STEP! Pour maple syrup on him to turn Waffledile into a tasty treat!



New
Specials!

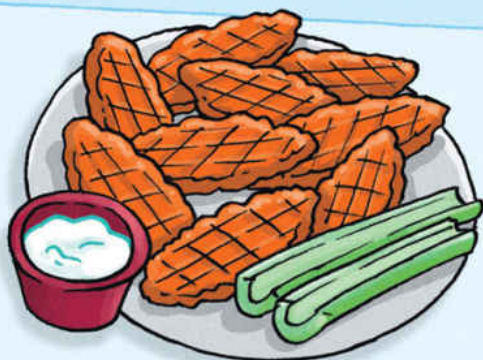
MAW

Free
Delivery!

MOTHER of ALL WAFFLES

Wac 'n' Cheese

Two of our signature waffles with baked-in macaroni and cheese centers! They're ooey, gooey, and make your tastebuds go kablooeey! Served with maple sriracha.

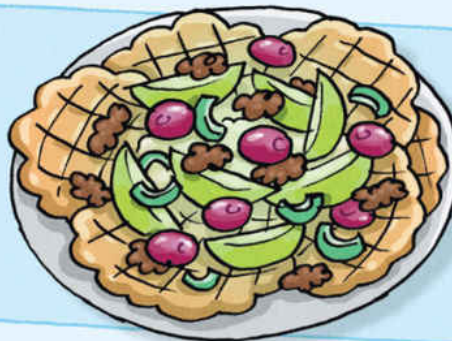


Boneless Buffalo Wafflings

Half waffle, half wing, ALL FLAVOR! Choice of mild, medium, hot, or volcano. Served with celery and a smoked maple blue cheese dip. May contain bones.

Waldorffle Salad

A harmonious blend of apples, celery, grapes, and wafflenuts, dressed in maple mayo, and served on a bed of wafflettuce.



The Chucket™

Chunks of buttermilk fried chicken served in an edible waffle-bucket! Available in small, medium, and super-double-medium.

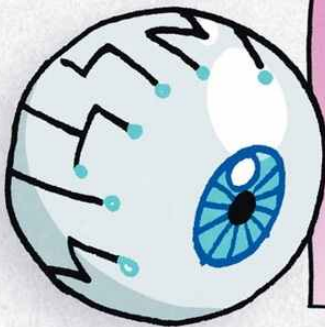


The horror!
THE HORROR!

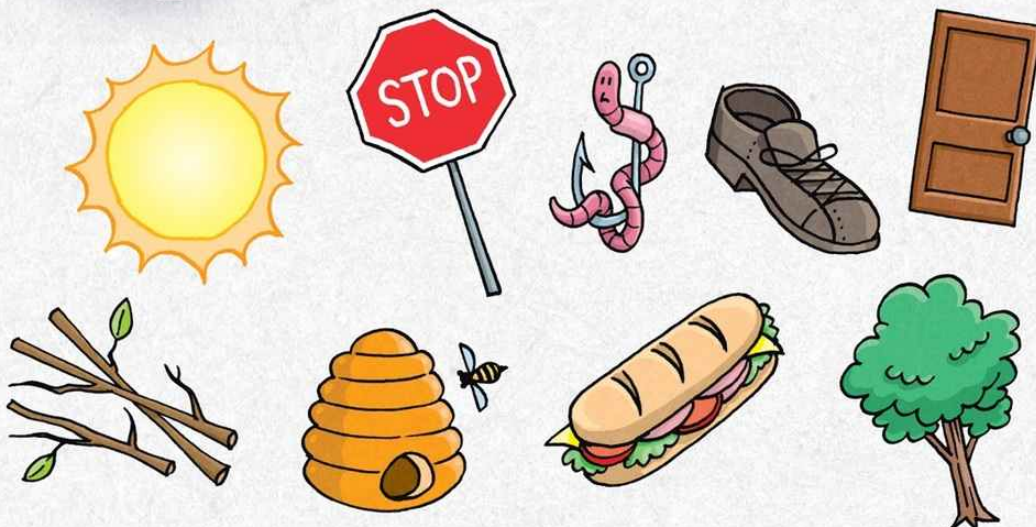
Menu subject to change without warning

Agent Monocle is hacking into a secret database and has one last chance to crack the code. Of the numbers she's tried below, each guess has just one correct digit that's in the correct order. Knowing that, can you figure out the 3-digit passcode?

Passcode: 896 ✗
Passcode: 983 ✗
Passcode: 246 ✗
Passcode: 843 ✗
Passcode: *** ✓



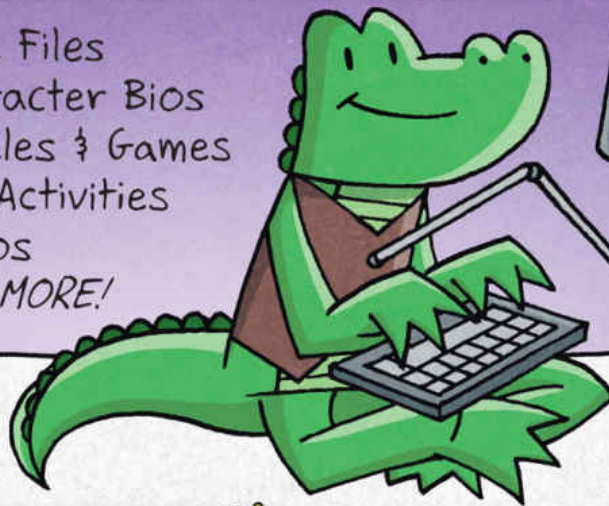
C-ORB sees everything, but can't see the connection between these nine objects. Can you tell what they have in common, and figure out if anything's missing?



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COMING SOON!

Investi GATORS

Ants in Our P.A.N.T.S.



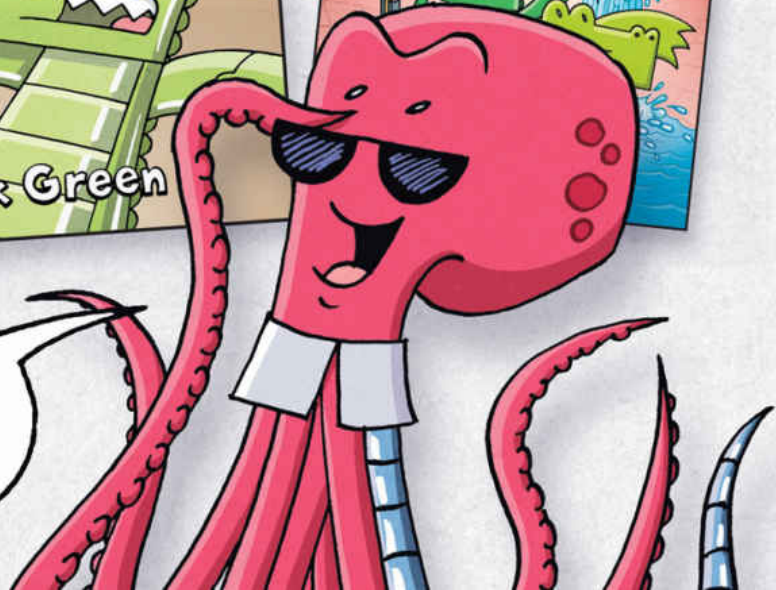
John Patrick Green



Investi
GATORS
Take the Plunge

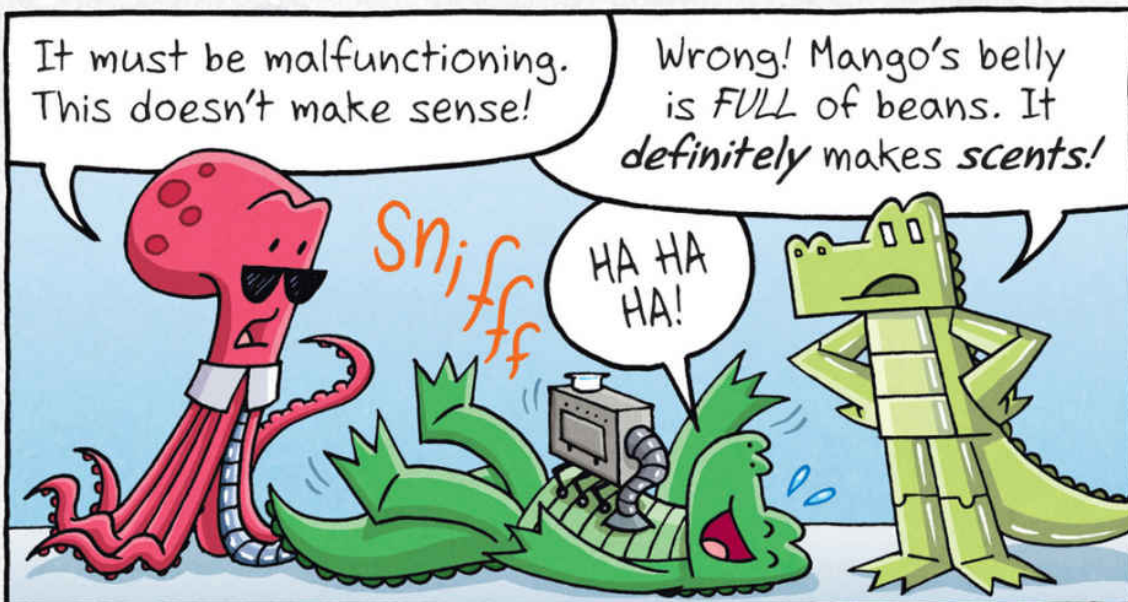
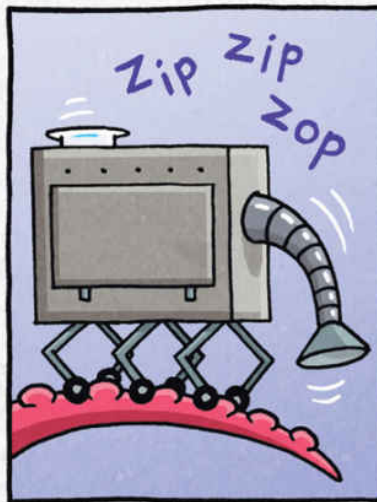
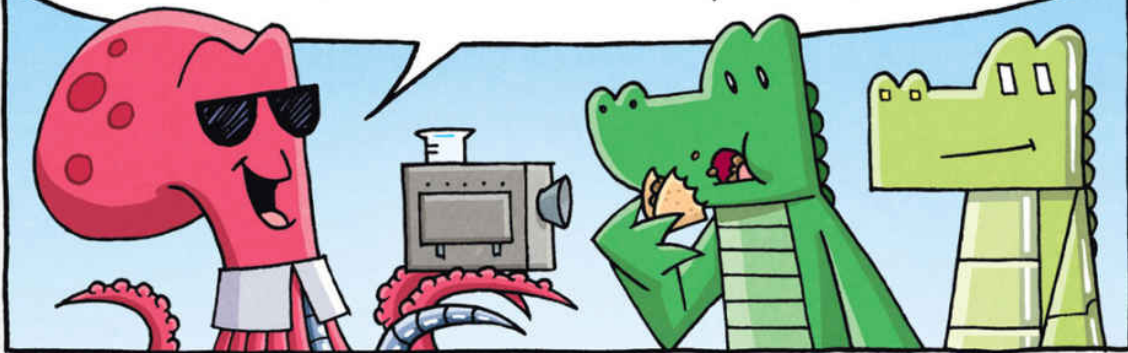


Oooh! I
can't wait to
get my arms
on that!



Invent a V.E.S.T.*!

Mango and RoboBrash! I put out the call for new, creative, extra-special V.E.S.T.s and our junior agents really delivered! This **SCENT DETECTOR** gadget was invented by Clara from Grand Junction, Colorado. Just provide a sample of something you want to find and it will track it by its smell!



*Very Exciting Spy Technology

Do you have an idea for a V.E.S.T.? Share it with us with [#InvestigatorsBooks!](https://twitter.com/InvestigatorsBooks)

Special thanks to...

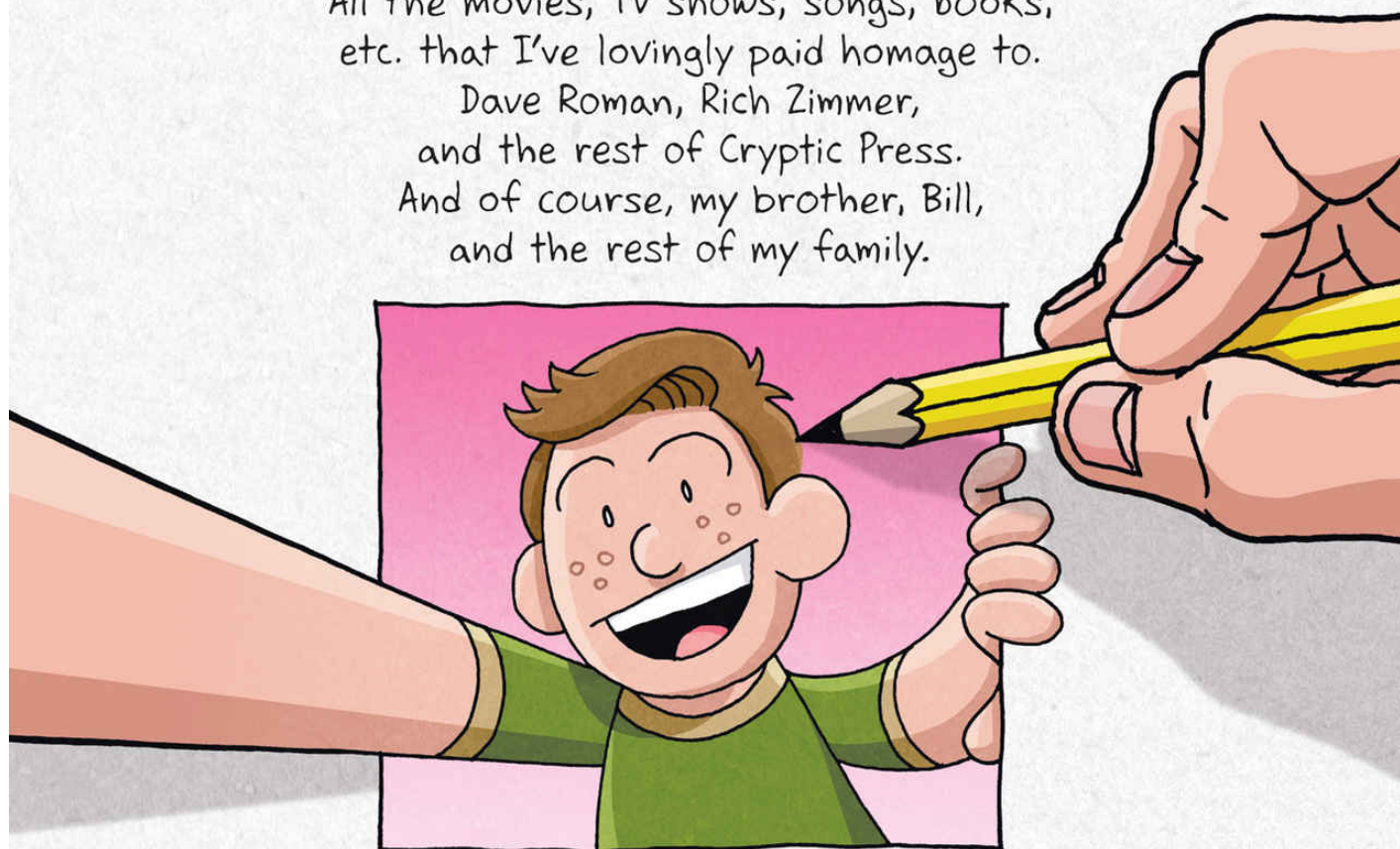
Aaron Polk and his flatters, Christine Brunson and Robin Fasel, for their incredible colors.

My editors, Calista Brill, Rachel Stark, and some new person, plus everyone else at First Second who's had to tolerate me.

My agent, the extraordinary Jen Linnan.

All the movies, TV shows, songs, books, etc. that I've lovingly paid homage to.

Dave Roman, Rich Zimmer, and the rest of Cryptic Press. And of course, my brother, Bill, and the rest of my family.



John Patrick Green is a *New York Times*-bestselling author who makes books about animals with human jobs, such as *Hippopotamister*, the Kitten Construction Company series, and the Investigators series. John is definitely not just a bunch of animals wearing a human suit pretending to have a human job. He is also the artist and co-creator of the graphic novel series *Teen Boat!*, with writer Dave Roman. John lives in Brooklyn in an apartment that doesn't allow animals other than the ones living in his head.

Investi GATORS

Off the Hook



written and illustrated by
John Patrick Green

with color by Aaron Polk



First Second
New York

Praise for *InvestiGators*
"Heaping helpings of surreal alligator action."
—The New York Times

The **INVESTIGATORS** chase after a new criminal...



...but they're about to face an even **BIGGER** villain!



Can Mango and Brash put a **STOP** to this looming threat?

**GET HOOKED
ON THE
WHOLE SERIES!**



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:01

First Second
New York

Investi GATORS

Off the Hook



New York Times Bestselling Author

John Patrick Green